



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

JANUARY 2013

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 49, Number 1



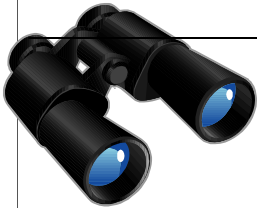
40 Years of the Colorado Bird Records Committee in 40 Minutes!

Monday February 25, 7.30pm

Doug Faulkener (photo on left) will provide highlights of the CBRC history from its founding in the early 1970s to the Snowy Owl invasion of 2011-12. Along the way, he'll discuss why records matter and what happens to reports after they have been submitted to the CBRC.

He will delve into the CBRC's inner decision-making processes and some of the more interesting decisions it has made for such occurrences as the Red-backed Hawk and Baikal Teal.

Continued on page 3



January Field Trips

Saturday, Jan. 5 Longmont Area

Leader: Nancy Wesorick(970)532-2194.

Meet the leader at Jim Hamm park at 8:00 am. From I-25 take Exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld CO Line Road, then approximately 2 miles north to park on left at E 17th Ave. We will search water bodies in the Longmont area for waterfowl and any winter birds we can find in the surroundings. Walking will be limited to flat trails and no more than a mile at any one site. Bring water, lunch, scopes, and dress for the predicted weather. This trip will end mid-afternoon.

Sunday, Jan. 6 Walden Ponds, Boulder

Co-trip with the Boulder Bird club

Leaders: Chris Owens from DFO (303) 772-6048 and Dick Pautsch from BBC e-mail: rjpautsch@gmail.com. First Sunday Birding at Walden Wildlife Habitat. The entrance to Walden Pond is off of 75th, just south of Jay Road and north of Valmont Road where Boulder Creek crosses 75th. Meet at Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at 9:00 AM, bird until noon. Look for wintering waterfowl and other birds. Dress for cold weather, with warm footwear and hat. Bring binoculars, scope, water and a snack. Everyone welcome.

Continued on next page

January Field Trips, continued

Saturday, Jan. 12 Belmar Park

Leader: Karleen Schofield(303)936-8661.

Meet for a 10:00 am start on the west side of the Irongate office building. Belmar Historic Park is at 800 S Wadsworth Blvd in Lakewood. From Alameda and Wadsworth go South on Wadsworth, turn west at light on West Ohio Avenue. Drive a short two blocks to the parking lot. This is a two hour trip open to all people of any age. If you have children who may be interested, call Karleen for further details. Kountze Lake in Belmar Park often has open water in January. We'll check out the waterfowl on the lake, search for raptors over the fields and see what other birds may be found on a winter's day. Bring water, layered clothing, sun block, binoculars, scopes. Restrooms are available. Be prepared to walk 3/4 to 1 mile on flat trails. If questions or questionable weather, please call the leader the night before.

Sunday, Jan. 13 88th and the Platte

Leader: Chris Owens(303)772-6048.

Meet leader at 0800 at E. 88th and the South Platte River --From I-25 take Thornton parkway to Washington. Go south on Washington to 88th. Go left to Colorado Blvd. then into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead. This will be a half day trip walking on paved trails which will end by noon so lunch is optional. RSVP at (303)772-6048 or christiel@q.com

Saturday, Jan. 19 Chatfield State Park

Leader: Ed Holub(303) 979-2194.

Meet the leader at 8:00 am at the Swim beach. This will be a HALF DAY trip. Be prepared to walk trails and dress for the predicted weather. Bring your scope if you have one. Lunch is optional. No RSVP required.

Sunday, Jan. 20 Allenspark and Lyons

Leaders: Niña Routh (303)987-8687 and Mike Serruto

Meet the leaders at 8:30am at the southwest side of the Wagon Road RTD Park and Ride., 120th Ave. (from I-25) and Huron(less than .5 miles west of I-25). Or the Boulder County or north- and west-siders, and any others can meet at the parking lot near the public restrooms in Sandstone Park in Lyons by 9:30. Dress for winter conditions as there is always the chance of snow. We'll be walking approximately 3 miles throughout the day. Plan on a traipse around the Fawnbrook Inn and area looking for the illusive rosy finches and assorted winter species. Last year's highlights included evening grosbeaks & Clark's nutcrackers. Then we'll head towards Lyons looking for shrikes & eagles along the way and visit Oskar Blues for lunch. Lunch will be followed by a walk along the river in Lyons in search of riparian species. There is always a surprise. Golden eagles and bald eagles have been seen in past years. RSVP a must - please call Niña at 303 987-8687 to hold a spot.

Friday, Jan. 25th Birding Canon City Area

Leader: Charles Thornton-Kolbe (303)777-7588. Meet ten minutes before 6am at the Park 'n Ride off of I-25 at Yale Ave. (from I-25 from the north and heading south take the Yale Exit and turn right at Yale, then an immediate right turn into the parking lot). We will form carpools at the Park-n-Ride in the parking lot area farthest from Yale Avenue. **Please get there by 5:50am.**

We will stop on the way to Canon City for a good spot for Lewis' Woodpecker and then continue on to Canon City. Our first stop is usually Tunnel Drive (perhaps Rufous-crowned Sparrow, but likely a few goodies here), then to River Walk for the rest of the morning (we usually find a rarity here, but usually other nice birds). After lunch, we head to some Pinyon-Juniper habitat where we usually find Juniper Titmouse, Ladder-backed

Continued on next page

Meeting presentations, continued

Birding in Australia

Bill Eden and Bill Turner

Monday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.

Australia has been isolated from other land masses for over 50 million years, resulting in one of the highest rates of bird endemism of any country. Bill Eden and Bill Turner retrace their birding trip to the renowned birding locations of O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge, Kakadu National Park, and the Atherton Tablelands of northeast Queensland, illustrated with Bill Eden's stunning photos.



Australia has been called the land of parrots with such colorful species as the king parrot (*photo on the right by Bill Eden*), rainbow and varied lorikeets, the crimson rosella, the red-tailed black cockatoo, and the restricted range hooded parrot.

Several species of bowerbirds and their bowers will be shown as well as the cassowary, many honeyeaters, the Victoria's riflebird (a bird of paradise), whipbirds, the iridescent superb fairy-wren, the black-necked stork (jabiru), Papuan frogmouth, azure kingfisher, white-breasted sea eagle and many more. Other wildlife seen on the trip included the platypus (one of only three species of egg-laying mammals), a variety of kangaroos and wallabies, and two species of crocodiles. Some photos of ancient Aboriginal rock art will also be included.

*Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door, although this does cause problems for our hosts. Meetings start **promptly** at 7.30pm, and are open to the public without charge.*

January Field Trips Continued

Wood-pecker, 1 or 2 species of Thrasher, and 2 or 3 species of Bluebird. We finish off for a good spot for Canyon Towhee, Bewick's Wren and Scaled-Quail.

This is always a very fun and productive winter birding day, and this is always one of my favorite DFO birding trips. In years past, we have found some very cool birds including Golden-crowned Sparrow (rare), Harris' Sparrow (seldom), Pine Warbler (once), White-throated Sparrow (once). This trip has never missed a rarity (which is never guaranteed), but we always have a productive and fun day. Bring: Layers of clothing and coats (including rain gear), binoculars, scope (if you have one), lunch, snack, beverages. Bring breakfast if you have not eaten before leaving. Also two way radio and cell phones can be helpful to support car-to-car communication. Bring about \$15.00 to 25.00 for your gas share. If bad weather, come to parking lot, and we will go for it or find an alternative plans. No need to RSVP!

Saturday, Jan. 26 Pueblo Gulls

Leaders: Ira and Tammy Sanders (303) 278-7172. Meet the leaders at the Safeway parking lot at Lincoln and Yosemite at 6:15 am. We will leave no later than 6:30. The group will arrive at the marina by 8:00 am. Dress for the weather as predicted. Bring water, lunch and any snacks you may need. This will be a full day trip.

Coordinator Chris Owens

Denver Urban Christmas Count, January 1, 2013

A holiday tradition – everyone welcome: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. The more eyes we have, the more birds we see. And we like to encourage people to get involved. Start the New Year with a half day or whole day effort – a good way to start your New Year's List!

The count covers a circle with a 15-mile diameter that includes the Platte River from North City limits to Mississippi, west to Buckley Field and Rocky Mtn. Arsenal. About 5:00 p.m. After the count, **Pot Luck**, at Casey Davenport's, 415 South High (5 blocks west of University, about 2 blocks south of Alameda); please call Urling (303-814-2723) so we can count you in on the chili pot, Urling's brownies, Casey's hospitality, and your salad, dessert, veggie, or finger foods.

Count Leader, Hugh Kingery 303-814-2723

<i>Area Location</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	
South Platte (south) To Confluence Park	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072	Some walking
South Platte (central) Confluence Park to Riverside Cemetery	Casey Davenport	303-744-0613	Some walking
South Platte (north)	Dick Schottle	303-278-8035	Walking
Lower Sand Creek/ Commerce City/Montbello	Mike Serruto	303-377-9870	Some walking
Aurora, Tollgate Ck Upper Sand Creek/Bluff Lake	Randy Lentz	303-680-3381	Walking
Cherry Creek, dam to University Blvd.	Paul Slingsby	303-422-3728/ paslingsby@comcast.net	7-mile walk
Cherry Creek Res.	Bob Brown	303-791-6204/PicaPica@att.net	Some walking
SE Denver N/Hampden	Mary Keithler mkeithler@gmail.com Harriet Stratton	303 771 1421 cell 303 941 7009 303-798-9924	Walking hstra10@comcast.net
Kent School, S/Hampden	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000	Some walking
City Park/Park Hill	Kevin Corwin	720-482-8454	Car, some walking
Botanic Gardens, Wash. Park Denver Country Club	Marilyn Rhodes Bob Santangelo	303-674-9895 303-477-1367	Car, some walking
Rocky Mtn. Arsenal	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723	Car, some walking
Fairmont, Lowry Field	303-979-6211	Tuesday Birders	Closed
Denver Zoo	Brad Parks	Closed	

So Sayeth the Speaker...

The DFO was treated to a fascinating 26 November 2012 program on the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) Colony Watch program in eight western states. DFO President **Chuck Hundertmark** provided an overview. Researchers train citizen scientists (volunteers needed) to provide data for the Bald Eagle Watch, Hawk Watch, Colony Watch, Barrow's Goldeneye fall count, and to participate as Volunteer Naturalists.

Bald Eagles reappeared at Barr Lake in 1986. The first nest in the Front Range since the 1960s was built at Barr Lake in 1988. The Bald Eagle Watch was begun that year. This year there were close to 30 nests in the Front Range. The volunteers observe the nests from January to July of each year.

HawkWatch International hired Duane Nelson in 1990 to find a good hawk watch site along the Front Range in CO. During the early years, HawkWatch International, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and RMBO shared responsibility for the site. Today, RMBO is rebuilding HawkWatch as a volunteer program.

The wintering Barrow's Goldeneye count began in the 1990s. They are difficult to count in their breeding areas farther north, so it was decided to count the wintering birds in the mountain and Front Range lakes in the late fall.

The Volunteer Naturalist program provides training for citizens to assist with nature programs.

The Colony Watch involves surveying 15 species of water birds breeding in Colorado. It was begun in 1998 and received funding in 2009 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Citizen scientists monitor ~600 colonial breeding sites.

Jason Beason, RMBO Special Projects Monitoring Coordinator (Jason.Beason@rmbo.org), continued the program presenting addition information on the Colony Watch effort. He said colonial nesters are subject to disturbance, predation, and habitat destruction. Water birds are environmental indicators; they need clean water to successfully raise their young. There are three types of water birds: island nesters, tree nesters, and marsh nesters.

The survey protocols are provided to the surveyors. Several types of surveys can be employed: (1) direct nest counts, e.g., American White Pelicans on McFarland Island in North Park; (2) flight-line counts, e.g., Snowy Egrets; (3) flush counts in marshes; and (4) counts of adults and juveniles, such as pelicans on an island.

Jason provided some results of the USFWS western states colonial water bird atlas for 2009–2011. Colorado ranks near the top of the western states because it has been doing counts for ~10 years and an increased number of reservoirs has increased usage by water birds. A few interesting facts on the 15 Colorado water birds surveyed include:

- Eared Grebe: first documented in 1874 in the San Luis Valley;
- Western Grebe: first documented nest in 1940 in western Colorado;
- Clark's Grebe: a new species in 1985, 2 colonies in 2009 and 2010;
- American White Pelican: very few breeding sites in CO include Riverside and Antero Reservoirs and those near Walden, 2 colonies in 2009, 5 in 2010;
- Double-crested Cormorant: first documented breeding in CO in 1930, 14 colonies in 2009, 15 in 2010;
- Great Blue Heron: nest in cottonwoods along rivers and creeks and moving up in elevation to 9,000 feet, 73 colonies in 2009;

Continued on next page

So Sayeth the Speaker... continued

- ❑ Great Egret: first nested in Boulder Creek in 1972, 2 colonies in 2009, 1 in 2010;
- ❑ Snowy Egret: first documented breeding in CO in 1937, no colonies in western CO;
- ❑ Cattle Egret: first documented breeding in 1977, 4 colonies each year;
- ❑ Black-crowned Night-Heron: 15 colonies in 2009;
- ❑ White-faced Ibis: first documented in 1875 in San Luis Valley, 3,670 nests in 2001, 12 colonies in 2009, 6 in 2010;
- ❑ Franklin's Gull: first two pairs nested in North Park in 1999, now a few more;
- ❑ California Gull: first documented in 1963 in Weld Co., 2 colonies in 2009, 3 in 2010;
- ❑ Forster's Tern: only a few nest in North Park, 4 colonies in 2009 and 2010;
- ❑ Black Tern: first documented breeding in North Park in 2008, 4 colonies in 2009, 5 in 2010.

Jason said infrequent water birds in Colorado include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Little Blue Heron.

Nesting species to look for in the future are Glossy Ibis and Caspian Tern. He also suggested considering donating to the Richard G. Levad Memorial Fund <http://rmbo.org/v3/ourwork/science/birdpopulationmonitoring/specializedprograms/aboutrmbo/ChipIn.aspx>.

Kay Niyo



Photo of a Harlan's
Red-Tailed Hawk taken by
Edie Israel on the Dec 8
DFO field trip to
Cherry Creek State Park

More Field Trips...

Barr Lake Christmas Bird Count January 4, 2013

Meet at Old Stone House (RMBO Headquarters) at 7:00 a.m. to organize for field activity. The headquarters is at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane in Brighton. Coffee, hot cocoa, tea and donuts will be available as we organize for the count. Participants can register online or contact compiler Chuck Hundertmark at chundertmark8@gmail.com or 303-604-0531. To register online or find information on other Colorado counts go to <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

Cherry Creek Wetlands Loop

Here is your opportunity to participate in a new field trip, run the second Sunday of every month, at Cherry Creek State Park. This half-day walk will begin at the Prairie Loop at 9am (winter) and 8am (summer). The route is designed as a loop and will pass through most of the important habitats found in the Park. The distance is about three miles. Although the walk is on park trails these may become muddy and slippery during periods of inclement weather. Please dress accordingly. Layers recommended. Carry water and snacks. Lunch is optional. Binoculars are recommended. There is no charge or prior registration required to join this monthly hike. A state park pass, however, either annual or daily, is required to enter CCSP. Beginning birders are welcome; more experienced birders will help compile a monthly bird list including total species and individuals observed.

The dates for 2013 are as follows:

13 January	14 July
10 February	11 August
10 March	08 September
14 April	13 October
12 May	10 November
09 June	08 December

Master Birders will lead the trips. We will have at least two leaders and hopefully, at least one scope.

Karen von Saltza : h/303 368 9961 c/303 941 4881

Welcome New Members (2013 Memberships Now Due)

Sue & Mike Crawford, 5670 W 115th Ct, Westminster, CO 80020, 303.596.4034

Deborah Kaller & Michael McGuire, 6528 MarVista PL, Denver, CO 80224, 303.321.0724

Thank you for the donation to the Research & Education Grant Fund

Meredith Anderson, Robert Beck, Ronald Carter, Dan & Renee Brachear, Kevin Corwin, Richard Creswell, Doris Cruze, Lee & Linda Farrell, Peggy Gonder, Grace Hahn, Sonja Hahn, John & Lucy James, Deborah Kaller & Michael McGuire, Linda Kardos-Klug, Mary Keithler, Judy Lane, Lois Levinson, Elissa & Jon McAlear, Niña Routh, Ted & Nancy Pinkert, Paul Slingsby, Melissa Smith, Charles & Jennifer Thornton-Kolbe, Joan Whiting, Lora & Gary Witt, Bill & Suzanne Wuerthele.

“How The Sausage Is Made...”

Or, What Your DFO Board Is Working On...Board Discussions, Actions, and Goals from November 19, 2012 meeting

Fact Finding Committee (Bill Wuerthele, Chair, Mary Keithler, and Joe Roller)

The Fact Finding Committee was created to investigate how investment decisions were made by the DFO board with respect to placing Endowment funds in Bridge Premium Finance LLC (Ponzi scheme), and to make recommendations for decision-making policies in the future.

Under Bill's leadership the committee examined events in an extremely thorough manner and presented the board with a series of recommendations for policies and operating procedures designed to avoid similar pitfalls in the future.

Bill also presented this information at the November DFO monthly meeting and made copies of the final report available to interested members. We owe Bill and his committee a great debt of gratitude for their work and the board has taken all recommendations under consideration!

Stewardship Committee (Mary Geder, DFO Treasurer and Chair, Linda Farrell, Bill Keithler, and Kevin Corwin)

Mary presented a draft of the committee's recommendations for a document called **DFO Investment Policies and Procedures**, which will lead to comprehensive financial investment guidelines for DFO.

Research, Education, and Conservation Fund (Chris Blakeslee, Chair, and Carol Cochran). The board adopted comprehensive new guidelines for the new Research, Education, and Conservation Fund. These guidelines will soon be available on the DFO website (www.dfobirders.org). The committee will be soliciting grant applications beginning in 2013.

DFO Communications (Will Burt, Communications Director). Will is looking into the use of e-mail as a way to communicate more regularly with the membership, and is studying the Pennsylvania GroupMe system of reporting rare bird sightings. This system might be able to be used as a method to augment COBIRDS for DFO members.

Field Trip Waiver (Ira Sanders, Board member) Ira is working with an attorney on a new, more comprehensive Field Trip Waiver for use on DFO trips.

DFO Policy Manual (Chuck Hundertmark, President). Chuck is working on a draft policy manual for the organization.

If you have questions about any of these issues, feel free to contact Chuck or any other officer or board member for more information (contact information on last page of the *Lark Bunting*).

Submitted by Chris Blakeslee

Donations for 2013 Grants Needed

As you renew your membership for 2013 please consider making a generous donation to the DFO Research and Education Fund. This year we are able to match all donations up to a total of \$1500 from a very generous gift given to DFO by Bob Righter.

Because of the loss of our Endowment Fund to a Ponzi scheme (see October Lark Bunting, pages 4-5), funds for grants will no longer be available from earnings on that fund. The DFO board is assessing whether an effort should be made to reestablish an endowment. In the meantime, the board voted to establish a Research and Education Fund that can be used for current and future grants.

In keeping with a new policy implemented by the board, all donations and other DFO funds are maintained in an FDIC insured account until they are used. In 2012 we awarded four worthwhile grants to supporting a wildlife habitat garden, binoculars for middle school students, Black Swift research, and an educational workshop for land managers. Your generous donation when you renew your membership will allow DFO to continue supporting worthy avifauna research and education projects.

Travel & Birding

So you are traveling to visit family and you know there are birds in that area that you would like to see. You can't miss the family event, but you can go a day or so early. My husband and I have discovered **Birding Festivals** as a way to go birding with local experts in a new region. Just add a couple of days to the plans and join in the fun. It may be a good idea to attend a **weekday** field trip to avoid larger groups and get the trip you want. You only pay for trips you attend and some of the programs and workshops are free.

In Wilcox, Arizona 16-20th of January 2013 you can hear keynote speaker Kenn Kaufman and join in tours for birds, geology, local history and botany. Maybe choose to see the Chiracahua desert mountains or the Apache Station Wildlife Viewing area. Website: <http://www.wingsoverwillcox.com>



In Florida you have 2 excellent possibilities. You can explore **South Florida & Everglades Jan 17-21, 2013** with the Everglades Birding Festival at Plantation/Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Target species would be Snail Kite, Limpkin, Painted Bunting, Short-tailed Hawk, Lesser Nighthawk, up to 6 Owls and 150 species possible. Website: <http://www.evergladesbirdingfestival.com> www.birdadventure.com

The largest festival in the U.S., **Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, is held Jan 23-28, 2013** at Titusville, Florida. They offer more than 200 field trips, photography workshops, kayak trips and (weather permitting) a pelagic trip. 188 species were seen in 2012. Registration is online and you should indicate a 2nd choice on field trips in case your 1st is filled. <http://www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org>



If you are traveling West, consider the **Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway Jan 24-27, 2013** in Chico, California.

<http://www.snowgoosefestival.org>

Even if you cannot attend one of their field trips, the web sites tell you the best birding places in their area. There is often a list of what was seen last year at the same time.

Happy Travels and Birding!

Mary Cay Burger mcburger3@juno.com

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Chuck Hundertmark,
2546 Lake Meadow Dr. Lafayette, CO 80026
chundertmark8@gmail.com 303.604.0531

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Shade,
13861 W Dakota Ave, Lakewood, CO 80228
wrshade3@gmail.com 303.975.2476

TREASURER

Mary Geder,
13831 W Harvard Dr. Lakewood, CO 80228
mfg5000@live.com 303.986.6127

SECRETARY

Kay Niyo 5651 Garnet St., Golden, CO 80403
kay@kayniyo.com

DIRECTORS

Chris Blakeslee (2013) chrisabla@aol.com
Tina Jones (2014) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Ira Sanders (2014) greatauk@msn.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014) lynnliz2698@aol.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)
candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Meredith McBurney (2015)
meredithmcburney@msn.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015), wuerthel@ecentral.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place,
Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Jan 12 Mary Geder 303.981.8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
March 12 Chris Owens 303.772.6048
April **Scheduler needed**
May 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303.981.8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303.863.7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303.280.8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303.772.6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
Dec 12 Chuck Hundertmark 303.604.0531

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt43@comcast.net.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt: veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholfmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge. **Please note that the October 22 meeting will be held in the Planetarium.**

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, news from the Board, and various birding articles and photos. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#) Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2013 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation. ;

- Contribution to research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742





Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

FEBRUARY 2013

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 49, Number 2

Birding – An Extraordinary Way to See the World...how Nancy and Charles Bell sum up their passion for birding travel.



March 26, 7:30pm

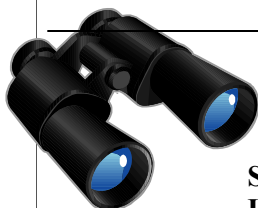
Featuring Nancy's outstanding bird and wildlife photographs, this presentation emphasizes how having birding as an objective takes you to incredible places and wonderful experiences that would never be enjoyed if birding wasn't a part of your life.

Among them, playing midwife to a camel, getting grabbed by a Mountain Gorilla, and having King Penguins "turn the tables on us by being at least as interested in watching us as we were in watching them." Their goal with this presentation is to motivate audiences to get out and go birding – maybe just close to home or

perhaps to a far away land. Above all, it emphasizes how much fun birding and birding travel can be.

Continued on page 3

February Field Trips



Saturday, February 2

Northeastern Raptor Tour

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748.

Meet leader at 0630 at the Division of Wildlife, 6060 North Broadway – Exit I-25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Bring lunch, water and snacks for a full day of driving and watching raptors in the northeastern corner of Colorado.

Sunday, February 3

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728

Meet the leader, 0800 at the Kingfisher Bridge trailhead at the south end of Chatfield State Park where the park road crosses the South Platte River. Please register with Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728. When you register, if you live north, you may want to ask to join a carpool from the Wheat Ridge area. Birding will conclude by 1 or 2 pm. so lunch is optional. We will walk 2 or 3 miles on dirt trails that may be snow covered and may have some ice. Spotting scopes are optional (heavy). State park pass is required for all cars.

Saturday, February 9

Photographing Dippers - Lair o'the Bear

Leader: Lee Farrell Phone: 303-932-7859

Time: 0800 Meeting Place and Directions: Lair o'the Bear parking lot. From Morrison & C-470, drive 4 miles west on C-74 to park entrance on left. This trip will give nature / bird photographers a fantastic chance to capture American Dippers against beautiful icy backdrops! Join Lee Farrell on this unique DFO trip. Must have 300MM or

Continued on next page

February Field Trips, continued

greater for best images. About the leader: Lee gained an appreciation for wildlife and conservation at an early age. With more than 35 years experience as an avid nature photographer he now finds wild birds as one of his favorite subjects. To see some of Lee's work visit <http://lee13.smugmug.com>. Please call Lee with any questions. PRE-REGISTRATION is required, limited to 8 photographers, spouses welcome. Half day trip at most.

Sunday, February 10 South Platte River at 88th

Leader: Chris Owens 303-772-6048.

Meet leader at 0800 at E. 88th and the South Platte River --From I-25 take Thornton parkway to Washington. Go south on Washington to 88th. Go left to Colorado Blvd. then into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead. This will be a half day trip walking on paved trails for about two miles. We hope to see Barrow's goldeneyes and other water fowl. Trip will end by noon so lunch is optional. RSVP at (303)772-6048 or christiel@q.com.

Saturday, February 16 South Platte Park

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194

Meet leader at 0730 at the South Platte Park's Carson Nature Center, north of Mineral Ave., 1 block west of S. Santa Fe Drive. This trip will end by noon so lunch is optional but do bring drinking water. Participants will bird South Platte Park and other places of interest in the surrounding area.

Sunday, February 17 Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072

Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a three and a half-hour walking tour on an easy trail. Participants should see golden eagles and species common in the foothills. State Parks Pass required or \$5 entrance fee per car. Lunch will be optional but there is a beautiful place to sit on the patio and watch the birds as you eat lunch. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Ram-part Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). This is an excellent trip for novice birders and new members.

Saturday, February 23 Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Cay Burger, 303-771-3431.

Meet at 0830. Come to the **EAST GATE** of Cherry Creek Park, which is a right hand turn off Parker Road, just south of I-225. From there, you will get further directions to the first stop for the group. Generally, group will bird from east to west, to take advantage of morning sun to your back. Leader knows Cherry Creek very well and will take us to locations where interesting birds have been occurring. Eagles will probably be on the reservoir. Must have state parks pass and "water" sticker to enter. Birding until noon or 1. Lunch optional.

Sunday, February 24 Denver City Park

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, 720-771-8659.

Meet leader at 0800 at parking strip southwest of 22nd Ave just north of Ferril Lake. From Colorado Blvd, turn west onto 22nd Ave. and go past the Museum of Nature and Science. Turn left just before the zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand. Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake. We'll check Ferril Lake and Duck Lake winter water birds. In particular, we look for early arrivals of Double-crested Cormorants and any indications of early breeding behaviors. An easy morning walking. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars. Scopes optional. Half day trip. Limit of 10 participants. Call or email leader if you plan to attend. chundertmark8@gmail.com.

**Scheduled by Chuck Hundertmark
For Jackie King**

Meeting presentations, continued



40 Years of the Colorado Bird Records Committee in 40 Minutes!

Monday February 25, 7.30pm

Doug Faulkner (photo on left) will provide highlights of the CBRC history from its founding in the early 1970s to the Snowy Owl invasion of 2011-12. Along the way, he'll discuss why records matter and what happens to reports after they have been submitted to the CBRC.

He will delve into the CBRC's inner decision-making processes and some of the more interesting decisions it has made for such occurrences as the Red-backed Hawk and Baikal Teal.

Birding in Australia with Bill Eden and Bill Turner

Monday January 28, 7.30pm



Australia has been isolated from other land masses for over 50 million years, resulting in one of the highest rates of bird endemism of any country. Bill Eden and Bill Turner retrace their birding trip to the renowned birding locations of O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge, Kakadu National Park, and the Atherton Tablelands of northeast Queensland, illustrated with Bill Eden's stunning photos. The Regent Bowerbird on the left is a perfect example.

Several species of bowerbirds and their bowers will be shown as well as the cassowary, many honeyeaters, the Victoria's riflebird (a bird of paradise), whipbirds, the iridescent superb fairy-wren, the black-necked stork (jabiru), Papuan frogmouth, azure kingfisher, white-breasted sea eagle and many more. Other wildlife seen on the trip included the platypus (one of only three species of egg-laying mammals), a variety of kangaroos and wallabies, and two species of crocodiles.

*Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door, although this does cause problems for our hosts. Meetings start **promptly** at 7.30pm, and are open to the public without charge.*

Donations for 2013 Grants Needed

As you renew your membership for 2013 please consider making a generous donation to the DFO Research, Education and Conservation Fund. This year we are able to match all donations up to a total of \$1500 from a very generous gift given to DFO by Bob Righter.

Because of the loss of our Endowment Fund to a Ponzi scheme (see October Lark Bunting, pages 4-5), funds for grants will no longer be available from earnings on that fund. The DFO board is assessing whether an effort should be made to reestablish an endowment. In the meantime, the board voted to establish a Research, Education and Conservation Fund that can be used for current and future grants.

In keeping with a new policy implemented by the board, all donations and other DFO funds are maintained in an FDIC insured account until they are used. In 2012 we awarded four worthwhile grants to supporting a wildlife habitat garden, binoculars for middle school students, Black Swift research, and an educational workshop for land managers. Your generous donation when you renew your membership will allow DFO to continue supporting worthy avifauna research and education projects.

59th Annual Denver Christmas Bird Count

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, December 15, 2012, 6:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Compiler: Joey Kellner **Feeder Coordinators:** Veronica Holt

Weather: Overcast à Mostly Clear **Temperature:** 15 to 48 deg. F **Wind:** variable, 0 to 15 mph

Snow Cover: 0 to 2" **Still Water:** Partly frozen to frozen **Moving Water:** open

Observers: 155 (137 in 38 parties, 18 watchers at 18 feeders)

Total Party Hours: 256.7 (170.8 on foot, 89.4 by car)

Total Party Miles: 729.4 (128.5 on foot, 600.9 by car)

Hours Spent Watching Feeders: 67

Count Totals: 107 species; 31,552 individuals

Participants by Area (Area Leader's names in **bold**):

Area 1. Red Rocks Park (RRP): **Bob Brown**, Dan Stringer

Area 2. Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Birgit Arvin, Rick Creswell, Donna Emmons, **Mike Henwood**, Art Hudak, Diane Hutton, Gwen Moore, Benny Mullis, Janet Shin, Scott Yarberry

Area 2A. Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): **Mark Amershek**, Marianne Batchelder, Diane Carter, Edward Donnan, Rick Dornfeld, Nicole Gerou, George Mayfield, Bruce Neumann, Rosemary Peterson, Pat Termin, Deb Wittwer

Area 3. Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): Mary Cay Burger, Gale Evans, Peggy Gonder, Tina Jones, Cynthia Madsen, Betsy Maslow, Richard Maslow, **Kay Niyo**, Jim Rouse, Ira Sanders, Glenn Walbek

Area 4A. Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Ruth Breckon, Nelson Ford, **Ed Holub**, Thomas Holub, Chris Rurik

Area 4B. Lower South Platte-west (LSP): Scott Forman, Beth Hanson, Steve Kingswood, Linda Kottmann, Crystal Reser, **Robert Shade**

Area 5. Highline Ditch (HLD): **Nancy Crews**, Michele Danforth, Jim Herring, Ed Kasten, Trode King, David Weimer

Area 6. Plum Creek (PCK): Dan Brooke, **Norm Erthal**, Nathan McAdams, Daniel McAdams, Kathryn Smith, Steve Smith, Cheryl Teuton

Area 7A. Middle South Platte (MSP): **Randy Lentz**

Area 7B. Middle South Platte (MSP): Peter Gillette, **Hugh Kingery**, **Urling Kingery**, Deb Ostergard, Daron Seex, Mike Sorruto, Padmani Stone

Area 8. Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): Burke Angstman, Joey Angstman, Paul Differding, Steve Harbula, **Joey Kellner**, Charlie Lawrence, Charlie Schmucker, Laura Wilder

Area 9. Upper South Platte (USP): Betty Glass, **Jill Holden**, Mary Keithler, Meredith McBurney

Area 10. Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Dave Costain, Scott Dicni, Patty Echelmeyer, Stephanie Jones, Bob Righter, PJ Ross, Benjamin Sampson, Bob Sampson, **Lynn Willcockson**

Area 11. Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Meredith Anderson, Jim Duggan, Chuck Hundertmark, Norm Lewis, Nina Routh, Toni Routus, **Paul Slingsby**

Area 12. Yegge Peak (YPK): Audrey Boag, **Ann Bonnell**, Phil Gerkin, Celia Greenman, Jennifer Hyypio, Linda Knudsen, Walt Knudsen, Michael Kiessig, Steven Sieders, Else Van Erp

Area 13. Doublehead Mountain (DHM): **Amy Davis**, Nancy Davis, Tim Davis, Adam Green

Area 14. North Turkey Creek (NTC): Ed Furlong, Larry Modesitt, **Dick Schottler**

Area 15. Indian Hills (IHL): Francis Commercon, Caroline Gilbert, Susan Harper, Alison Kondler, Megan Miller, Dick Prickett, Warren Roske, Karen von Saltza, Jeanette Strom, **Sherman Wing**

Area 16. Upper Bear Creek (UBC): Robert Santangelo, Laura Steadman, **Tom Parchman**

Area 17. Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): Susan Blansett, **Tom Bush**, Pat Connor, Mary Fran O'Connor, Ed Talbot

Area 18. Garrison Gate (GGT): **Steve Stachowiak**

Area 19. Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): **Mark Chavez**, Daren O'Brien, Alan Peryam

Area 20. Willow Creek (WCK): **Doris Cruze**, Doug Hodous, Barbara Shissler, Dennis Wojcicki

Area 21. Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): Laura Wathen, **Wayne Wathen**

"Roving Expert and Photographer" – **Glenn Walbek**

2012 Denver Christmas Bird Count Highlights

by Joey Kellner, Compiler

The 2012 Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 15th, the 59th consecutive year that the Denver Field Ornithologists has conducted a Christmas Count within the same 15-mile diameter Count circle established in 1954 and centered just north of the old Ken Caryl Ranch entrance. The weather on count day was overcast becoming mostly clear with calm to low winds. A beautiful day to be out with the team reporting a respectable 31,552 individual birds of 107 species recorded by 137 field observers and 18 feeder watchers. One new species, Eastern Bluebird was added to the cumulative Denver CBC list in 2012 - Jill Holden and her team documented three Eastern Bluebirds in Area 9 (Upper South Platte). The grand total of species seen since 1954 thus rises to 199!

"Rare" birds (seen on less than 10% of the previous Counts) found this year included:

White-winged Scoter (5th record) in Area 3

Lesser Black-backed Gull (6th record) in Area 3

Continued on page 6

DFO Helps Land Managers Put the “Wild” in New Wildlife Training*

By Noe Marymor, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory



Figure 1. A bull moose visits the Pingree Park Campus for breakfast.

habitat issues in eastern Colorado, but there are almost no training opportunities for these employees to develop a sound basis in wildlife management. This unfortunate circumstance spurred the creation of this year's Wildlife Short Course.

The training provided an immersion into wildlife science and its application to private lands wildlife habitat conservation. The students learned about r and K selected wildlife species, about why it's important to distinguish source populations from sink populations, and how riparian areas create corridors of habitat connectivity that link both of those ecological concepts while supporting ecosystem processes.



Figure 3. The Brave Participants of the Area 2 Wildlife Shortcourse.

employees communicate the value of wildlife to landowners, and helps staff target funding to the best wildlife projects to meet landowner and conservation goals.

It's the site of a WWII military aircraft crash. Rumor tells that students have wandered into its nearby woods, never to be heard from again. More frightening yet, there is no cell phone reception or VPN email access. Yet despite its colorful past and present character, CSU's Pingree Park Mountain Campus played home to over 20 students and speakers for the first ever Area 2 Wildlife Short Course. From August 14th through 17th, 2012 a hearty group of landowners, government agency, Conservation District and Pheasants Forever employees participated in a new wildlife ecology and management training. Many federal, state, and conservation organization employees work on private lands

habitat issues in

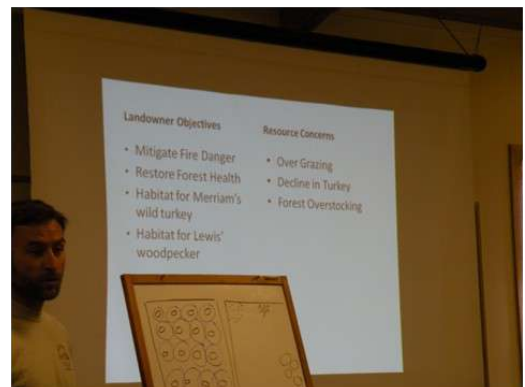


Figure 2. Participants present their wildlife conservation plans to the group.

Speakers from Colorado State University, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Management Institute, Ducks Unlimited and other groups explained why wild animals occur and behave in the places and ways that they do, and what basic conservation practices planners can use to restore and enhance important habitats across eastern Colorado. The four day course culminated in participants breaking into groups to develop and present wildlife conservation plans based on real world farming, ranching and wildlife scenarios.

Wildlife conservation continues to be an important issue in eastern Colorado. Providing basic wildlife technical training helps em-

* In 2012 DFO awarded a \$1000 grant to Noe Marymor of NRCS and RMBO to facilitate the 2012 NRCS Wildlife Short Course at Pingree Park

CBC Summary continued

Northern Saw-whet Owl (3rd record) found in Area 7a
Chihuahuan Raven (2nd record) in Area 3.

“Uncommon” birds (seen 10-24% of the previous Counts) found this year included:

Long-tailed Duck (Area 3-one bird, and Area 4b-two birds)
Pacific Loon (Area 7a)
Horned Grebe (Area 8)
Eared Grebe (Area 8)
Golden-crowned Sparrow (Area 1)
Common Grackle (Area 16)

Record-high individual numbers were established for **five** species this year: Western Grebe (54 vs 34 in 2010), American Coot (1361 vs. 857 in 1994), Eurasian Collared-dove (255 vs 147 in 2010), Pygmy Nuthatch (595 vs 580 in 2011), and Common Redpoll (118 vs 91 in 1975) .

The ten most numerous species observed on the Count were:

Canada Goose (8,569), 2. American Crow (2,097), 3. Cackling Goose (1,991), 4. Mallard (1,827), 5. House Finch (1,638), 6. American Coot (1,361), 7. European Starling (1,352), 8. Dark-eyed Junco (1,366), 9. Red-winged Blackbird (1,001), 10. Common Merganser (902). Together, these ten species accounted for 70 percent of the birds counted.

Two additional “Count Week” species were noted in the three days on either side of count day: Tundra Swan and Red-necked Grebe. Making an overall count of 109 species for the circle this year!

As compiler of the 59th Denver Christmas Bird Count, I want to thank all of the field observers and feeder watchers for participating. Special thanks go to the Area Leaders whose efforts and knowledge make this Count a success, to Veronica Holt for volunteering to line up the feeder watchers and for compiling the feeder results. Thanks also to South Platte Park (South Suburban Parks and Recreation) for the use of the Carson Nature Center for our compilation meeting. Lastly, thanks to all those that brought drinks and food to share! Sharing food and friendship after a day in the field was a great way to relax before the holidays. I hope to see you all at the compilation next year!

Welcome New Members - 2013 Memberships Now (Over) Due

Francis Commercom, 9396 S Morning Glory Way, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130, 303.470.9130
Rick Dornfeld, 11243 W 28th Ave, Lakewood, CO 80215, 303.882.0423
Scott Forman, 540 S Dahlia Circ #E-303, Glendale, CO 80246, 303.997.6447
Kate Frost, 7148 S Magnolia Cir, Centennial, Co 80112, 303.740.6111
Lewis Picher, 735 Gaylord St, Denver, Co 80206, 303.393.9123
Darth Townsend, 4567 Grove St, Denver, CO 80211, 303.477.3852

Thank you for the donation to the Research & Education and Conservation Grant Fund:

Thomas Parchman, David Hill, Jan Justice-Waddington, Christie Owens (In memory of Richard Mendez), Mark Amershek, Chuck Hundertmark & Marjorie Jannetta, Diane Hutton, Carol Cochran, Frances Sperl, Padmani Stone, Sue & Harry Hall, Roy Hohn, Mary Zick, Karen & John Weslar, Bill Eden, Joe Margoshes, Minerva Canavan, Mary Ann Tavery, Laura & Wayne Wathen, Betsy Shaw, Joyce Takamine, Patti Galli, Doug & Jan Hodous, David & Sherrill Pantle, Karen Clark & Joe Lupfer, Mary Burger, Peter Mulholland, Jean & Charlie Curlee, Tom Pool & Kitsi Atkinson, Mike Henwood, Barney & Pat Poole, Rex McGehee, Jeff Dawson, Polly Reetz

Travel & Birding

So you maybe cannot make it to a festival and you still want to see birds in another area; there are some great sources of information at www.Birdingonthe.Net. When you get to the site, choose "North America" then scroll down the page to "By Location." There you will find a list of clubs and persons who bird a specific locale. It is not obvious but the list is organized with Canada first, then alphabetically by state (or specific place in that state). Then you can click on a group in the area in which you are interested and check out their activities.

February Birding Festivals you might enjoy.

February 2, 2013, **SparrowFest** in Bertram, Texas takes you to Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge with sparrow experts, Bill Reiner, Randy Pinkston, and Jeff Patterson. Website: <http://sparrowfest.org>



Field Sparrow, photo courtesy of Byron Stone

Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls, Oregon explores the Klamath Basin, a major stop on the Pacific Flyway. You can sign up for guided field trips, workshops, and free family activities. Feb 14-17, 2013. Website: <http://www.WinterWingsFest.org>



Whooping Crane Festival, Feb 21-24, in Port Aransas, Texas celebrates the endangered Whooping Cranes that winter there. Floating high above the continent, the Whooping Crane embarks upon its 2,500-mile trek in October to winter on the Texas Gulf Coast. Families, twins, and adolescents alike, are among the scarce crane population that seem like royalty to us. They preen, dance through the marshes, sing to communicate and search for the perfect meal as they live their lives in the wide outdoors. The Whooping Crane stands tall – each of them dignitaries, some as tall as seven feet. Take a birding field trip by boat or bus plus see

speakers, exhibits and photography workshops. Website: <http://www.whoopingcranefestival.org>

San Diego Bird Festival, Feb 28-Mar 3, 2013, is headquartered along San Diego's famous "Mile of Birds" river estuary on Mission Bay. There is a great variety of field trips: desert, pelagic, mountain, plus a post festival Baja endemics trip. Website: <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org>

Please send any ideas for Travel & Birding that we can include in future issues to Mary Cay Burger, email : mcburger3@juno.com

For those of you new to birding, Cornell has a super set of silhouettes on how to determine whether the noisy black bird is a Common Raven, a Chihuahuan Raven, American Crow, Fish Crow, etc. Whenever I was doubtful about the ID of a bird, my Canadian mother-in-law would say "do you know the Crow?"

[http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=2501&hstc=132624273.9d920ea63fe98845c1c137299853c644.1349542862481.1352323200704.1357684263971.4&hssc=132624273.1.1357684263971)

[pid=2501&hstc=132624273.9d920ea63fe98845c1c137299853c644.1349542862481.1352323200704.1357684263971.4&hssc=132624273.1.1357684263971](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=2501&hstc=132624273.9d920ea63fe98845c1c137299853c644.1349542862481.1352323200704.1357684263971.4&hssc=132624273.1.1357684263971) Veronica Holt

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Chuck Hundertmark,
2546 Lake Meadow Dr. Lafayette, CO 80026
chundertmark8@gmail.com 303.604.0531

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Shade,
13861 W Dakota Ave, Lakewood, CO 80228
wrshade3@gmail.com 303.975.2476

TREASURER

Mary Geder,
13831 W Harvard Dr. Lakewood, CO 80228
mfg5000@live.com 303.986.6127

SECRETARY

Kay Niyo 5651 Garnet St., Golden, CO 80403
kay@kayniyo.com

DIRECTORS

Chris Blakeslee (2013) chrisabla@aol.com
Tina Jones (2014) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Ira Sanders (2014) greatauk@msn.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014) lynnliz2698@aol.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)
candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Meredith McBurney (2015)
meredithmcburney@msn.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015), wuerthel@ecentral.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place,
Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Jan 12 Mary Geder 303.981.8823
Feb 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
March 12 Chris Owens 303.772.6048
April **Scheduler needed**
May 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
June 12 Mary Geder 303.981.8823
July 12 Jill Boice 303.863.7580
Aug 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
Sept 12 Meredith Anderson 303.280.8576
Oct 12 Chris Owens 303.772.6048
Nov 12 Jackie King 303.287.1644
Dec 12 Chuck Hundertmark 303.604.0531

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt43@comcast.net.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt: veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge. **Please note that the October 22 meeting will be held in the Planetarium.**

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, news from the Board, and various birding articles and photos. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](#) Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2013 Membership Application

Please state type of membership: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If more convenient, you can pay for more than one year, just make sure you make a note of that when you submit your payment.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation. ;

- Contribution to research and education grant fund (matching funds available) \$ _____
- If you have any questions please call (303-694-4670)

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic (**legible**) Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Birding in Australia
Bill Eden and Bill Turner
Monday January 28

**40 Years of the Colorado Bird Records Committee in
40 Minutes!**
Doug Faulkner
Monday February 25



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

APRIL 2013

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 49, Number 4

A Birding Trip to Bhutan With Norm Erthal

April 22, 7.30pm



Our visit to Bhutan (officially the **Kingdom of Bhutan**, is a landlocked state in South Asia located at the eastern end of the Himalayas) covered 18 days of birding resulting in a species total of 299. We also encountered numerous species of mammals with rare primates a highlight. On days when the sun was out, butterflies showed off.

The scenery is spectacular with high mountains, steep river valleys, numerous waterfalls, interesting homes, and flowering rhododendrons. Our lodging ranged from tented camps, spartan hotels, and some wonderful lodges. We ranged from passes at 11,000 feet to tropical lowlands.



April Field Trips

Saturday, April 8

Parker/East Bank/McCabe Meadows

Leader: Mary Cay Burger, 303-771-3431. At 0800 meet the leader at the parking lot for the Parker/McCabe Meadows Park. From the Main Street intersection in Parker, go south on Parker Rd.(CO 83) for 1.2 miles. Turn right on Indian Pipe Lane to the lot. Trip will end by at least 1pm, so lunch is optional. Bring water and snacks. Highlights include: possible great horned owl and riparian species.

Sunday, April 7

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Greg Goodrich, 303-655-9135. At 0800 meet the leader at the Nature Center at Barr Lake. Barr Lake State Park requires a State Park Pass or one day park pass. We end at noon so lunch is optional. For those that bring lunch, we will eat on the benches close to the bridge close to the Nature Center. Nesting pair of Bald Eagles can usually be seen as well as many water birds.

Saturday, April 13

Denver City Park (photo & behavior trip)

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, 303-604-0531. Meet leader at 0700 at the parking strip southeast of 22nd Avenue just north of Ferril Lake. From Colorado Blvd, turn west onto 22nd Avenue, and go past the Museum of Nature and Science. Turn left just before the Zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand. Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake. We'll photograph and observe for early nesting behavior of Double-crested Cormorants, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Snowy Egrets on Ferril and Duck Lakes. For SLR's, a 300 mm lens or better is recommended. We'll also walk the park for migrants and early nesters. an easy morning walk. Bring water, snacks, binocs, camera, and optional tripod and scopes. Half day trip. Limit of 10 participants, so call or email leader if you plan to attend. chundertmark8@gmail.com

Continued on next page

April Field Trips, continued

Sunday, April 14

Cherry Creek Wetlands Loop

Leader: Karen von Saltza, cell 303-941-4881. Meet leader at 0800 at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP. From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd. to the Prairie Loop which is located at the south rim of the reservoir. State Park pass or day pass required. This half-day walk passes through most of the important habitats found in the park over a distance of about 3 miles. Trails could be slippery or muddy, so dress accordingly in layers and boots. Bring water and snacks, but lunch is optional. Beginning birders are welcome. No registration required. Co-sponsored with Denver Audubon.

Thursday, April 18

Pawnee Grasslands

Leader: Chris Owens Home: 303-772-6048 Cell: 970-481-7271. Meet leader at 0530 at the RTD Park-N-Ride on the southwest corner of I-25 and Highway 66, exit 243. We will return to the meeting place late afternoon or early evening, depending on our success. We will look for raptors, early migrants such as longspurs, long-billed curlews, flycatchers, sparrows, or any early warblers. Walking will be less than 2 miles but there may be some rough places we will traverse. In addition, on our return we will swing by Loloff and Lower Latham to see what we can there. Please RSVP to christiel@q.com. Bring scopes, binoculars, lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Be sure to dress for the predicted weather.

Sunday April 21

South Platte Park

Leader: Dick Anderson, 303-757-4582. At 0800 meet the leader at the parking lot at the Carson Nature Center. The Nature center is behind the Aspen Grove Shopping Center on Santa Fe. To get to the center go west on Mineral from Santa Fe to the first light and turn north off Mineral onto South Platte Parkway. Go past the RTD overflow parking on your left, then turn left into the Nature Center on Carson Way. We will explore the river upstream toward C-470. The river holds a variety of migrating water fowl – Green-winged Teal and Hooded Mergansers as well as Mallards and Canada Geese. We should find some shore birds in the lakes south of Mineral and Eared Grebes have been seen there as well. Raptors are regulars as well as nesting Great Horned Owls. We should finish about 11. Bring water, binoculars, a scope if you have one and dress for variable weather.

Saturday, April 27

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: David Rhoades, 303-424-8633. At 0800 meet the leader and bird until 1pm. For details on the trip and directions, please register, since space on the bus is limited. Register at darscr@msn.com or by phone. Early migrants and waterfowl are expected to be seen on this popular trip.

Sunday, April 28

Pueblo area

Leader: Paul Slingsby. Please register with Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728. We will meet, 6:00am, at the south east corner of the Sears parking lot, just north of C470 on Yosemite. The store that used to be The Great Indoors is now Sears, and we will carpool from there. Depending on recent bird sightings we will visit Pueblo City Park, Olive Marsh, Nature Center of Pueblo, Valco Ponds, Rock Creek Canyon Recreation Area and possibly other interesting places. Bring lunch and plan to walk as much as 3 miles on trails. We will be back to the Sears parking lot by about 6pm.

Trips Compiled by Candice Johnson

Call for 2013 Grant Applications

Attention all DFO members! Through the many very generous donations given by the membership the DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Fund has \$5000 available for grants in 2013. Grants will be awarded for projects that encourage the study, appreciation, and/or the preservation of birds and their habitats. **Members, please share this information with anyone you can think of who might have a worthy project in mind** and have them check out the DFO Grants web pages at www.dfobirders.org.

The DFO board has already awarded its first grant of 2013! The board awarded \$2000 to Kris Haglund and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Archives Dept. for the Bailey Film Project. This exciting project will recreate two of Dr. Alfred M. Bailey's most memorable film lectures: the Alaskan Album (1964) and the Hawaiian Album exploring the Hawaiian Archipelago from the "big island" of Hawaii all the way out to Midway (1962).

The museum's ever popular film-lecture series, held for many years in Phipps Auditorium, often consisted of Dr. Bailey lecturing to the audience while a 16mm silent film was running in the background. The audio portion of the lecture was recorded live on ¼" audiotape. This project will reunite the film and sound (Bailey's original narration) in a digital format that will give the viewer the experience of sitting in that lecture for the first time.

Email				
Alden, John & Jean	4912 Greenwich Dr.	Highlands Ranch, CO	80130-5200	303.471.4240
Alden, John Scott	6415 S Crocker St	Littleton, CO	80120-3315	303.868.3892
Amershek, Mark	PO Box 18014	Denver, CO	80218	303.329.8646
Anderson, Meredith	803 W 126th Pl	Westminster, CO	80234	303.280.8576
Anderson, Richard Holmes	2330 S Cook St	Denver, CO	80210-5527	303.757.4582
Andrews, Marlene	13859 W 66th Pl	Arvada, CO	80004	303.422.2928
Arey, Janice	5001 E 12th Ave	Denver, CO	80220	303.377.6977
Arnold, Bryan & Kristin	6529 S Allison Ct	Littleton, CO	80123-3504	720.283.1937
Arp, Margaret	7837 Fairview Rd.	Boulder, CO	80303-4723	303.494.6637
Atkinson, Kitsi	2024 Goldenvue Dr.	Golden, CO	80401-1725	303.279.3247
Axtell, Jane	5852 Willowbrook Dr	Morrison, CO	80465-2237	303.697.9070
Backus, Robert	4272 E Orchard Pl	Centennial, CO	80121	303.781.1860
Balais, Jonelle	595 Aspen Pl	Evergreen, CO	80439	303.670.6960
Barnhart, Susan	9637 E Sand Lily Lane	Parker, CO	80134-5129	720.842.1499
Barrett, Paul & Janet	228 Madison	Denver, CO	80206	303.333.4953
Beck, Robert	1515 E 9th Ave #103	Denver, CO	80218-3532	303.322.0079
Bellina, Karen	1152 Madison St.	Denver, CO	80206-3438	303.249.6157
Berger, Leona	120 So. Birch St.	Denver, CO	80246-1017	303.399.6354
Binkley Marilyn & Dave	PO Box 604, 76 Aster Lane	Grand Lake, Co	80447-0604	303.250.2381
Black, Mary Jane	335 Detroit St. #203	Denver, CO	80206-4368	303.333.4123
Blackard, Scott & Carol	7802 S Garfield Way	Centennial, CO	80122-3513	303.740.6072
Blansett, Susan	1000 19th St	Golden, CO	80401-1752	303.475.2718
Boardman, Barbara	2431 W Peakview Ct	Littleton, CO	80120-3068	303.794.7088
Bogar, Deb	9475 W. Hinsdale Pl.	Littleton, CO	80128	303.932.7607
Bogar, Jean	PO Box 36202	Denver, CO	80226	303.917.0950
Boice, Jill	2221 S. St. Paul St	Denver, CO	80210	303.863.7580
Bollhoefer, Kathy	1150 Cook St	Denver, CO	80206-3404	303.355.7569
Bradley, Sarah	545 Emerson St.	Denver, CO	80218-3207	303.778.6172
Brannan, Kate	4030 Field Dr	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-4358	303.421.1900
Breen, Margo & George	4665 S. Sheridan Blvd.	BowMar, Co	80123	303.798.5850
Broeren, Linda	925 Galena St	Aurora, Co	80010	303.364.0734
Brown, LeaAnn & Bob	730 E. Redwood Ct.	Highlands Ranch, CO	80126-4710	303.791.6204
Buckley, Karel	PO Box 1116	Evergreen, CO	80437-1116	303.882.3693
Bucknam, Robert	14450 W. 70th Dr.	Arvada, CO	80004-5902	303.420.2716
Bulow, Tamie	PO Box 487	Anahuac, TX	77514	303.877.1990
Burger, Mary	10826 E. Maplewood Pl.	Englewood, CO	80111-5742	303.771.3431
Burke, Lauren	12205 N Perry St. Lot 268	Broomfield, CO	80020-5355	303.465.1387
Burt, Will	3161 S Indiana St	Lakewood, CO	80228-5498	720.221.3271
Bush, Tom & Diane	25 Sand Cherry	Littleton, CO	80127	303.904.4576
Buttner, Bill	18908 W 61st Ave	Golden, CO	80403	321.403.7866
Cain, Cindy	7053 S Tamarac St	Centennial, CO	80112	303.726.2345
Camp, Vicki	2459A S Worchester Ct	Aurora, Co	80014-2163	303.368.8774
Campbell, Nan & Steve	1262 Steele St.	Denver, CO	80206-3424	303.320.4597
Canavan, Minerva	3508 Kirkwood Pl.	Boulder, CO	80304-1938	303.449.4449
Canter, Robert	4877 Knox Ct	Denver, CO	80221-1127	303.477.6278
Carter, Ron	10040 E. Grand Ave.	Greenwood Village, CO	80111-3623	720.318.6147
Chartier, Jacques & Holly	1647 S Quintero Way	Aurora, Co	80017-5222	303.755.2949
Chessick, Cheryl	840 S Garfield St	Denver, CO	80209-5004	303.722.3697
Chotena, Laurie	5341 S Sherman St	Littleton, CO	80121-1005	303.762.8116
Clark, C. Raymond	164 Lafayette St	Denver, CO	80218	303.698.2898
Clasen, Susan	3315 Beech Ct	Golden, CO	80401-1686	303.277.1774

Clossen, Sheryl	5387 So. Routt Way	Littleton, CO	80127-1611	303.904.7261
Cochran, Carol	1610 Locust St	Denver, CO	80220	303.394.9172
Combs, Walter	16240 W Ellsworth Ave	Golden, CO	80401-6543	303.278.4074
Commercon, Francis	9396 S Morning Glory Way	Highlands Ranch, CO	80130	303.470.9130
Cook, Carol & Dan	140 Everett St.	Lakewood, CO	80226	720.563.1877
Cook, Cris	8511 W. Star Cir.	Littleton, CO	80128	303.979.5265
Cookro, Terry	4444 King St	Denver, CO	80211	303.455.2405
Covert, Wendy	8080 W 25th Pl	Lakewood, CO	80214-5652	303.239.9238
Coxe, Joan	11579 Decatur St Unit B	Westminster, CO	80234	303.955.5792
Crawford, Sue	5670 W 115th Ct	Westminster, CO	80020	303.596.4034
Creswell, Rick	2557 S Dover St #88	Lakewood, CO	80227-3161	720.963.9163
Curlee, Charlie & Jean	1141 Jersey St	Denver, CO	80220-4546	303.331.4186
Davidson, Jerry	1720 S Garrison St	Lakewood, CO	80232	303.986.5740
Davis, Raymond & Nina	938 Colard Lane	Lyons, CO	80540-8307	303.823.5332
Dawson, Jeff	526 S Race St	Denver, CO	80209-4603	303.722.6758
DeBoer, Robert & Ovita	9102B E. Amherst Dr.	Denver, CO	80231-4039	303.745.4955
Donnan, Edward T	5271 S Delaware ST #J201	Englewood, CO	80110	303.898.4607
Dornfeld, Rick	11243 W 28th Ave	Lakewood, CO	80215	303.882.0423
Dorr, Georgia	2878 S Wheeling Way	Aurora, Co	80014-3450	720.535.1479
Driscoll, Mary & Dave	2039 S. Alton Ct	Denver, CO	80231-3402	303.695.6628
Drummond, John	19343 Knotty Pine Way	Monument, CO	80132-9438	719.488.3700
Dunning, Kathy & Jeff	1322 Fairfax St.	Denver, CO	80220-2527	303.333.7253
Dymerski, Mark	11274 W 54th Ln	Arvada, CO	80002	303.947.7308
Eddins, Jean	2501 York St	Denver, CO	80205	303.329.8350
Emmons, Donna	4901 W 93rd Ave #2431	Westminster, CO	80031-6398	719.369.9704
Enright, Fran	83 Long View Rd	Evergreen, CO	80439-4720	303.674.2657
Farrell, Lee & Linda	8486 S. Nelson St.	Littleton, CO	80127	303.932.7859
Fitzgerald, Peggy	7942 Surrey Dr	Morrison, CO	80465-2453	303.289.7613
Flynn, Clint & Carol	7357 W. Grant Ranch Blvd. #3011	Lakewood, CO	80123	303.904.3985
Ford, Nelson	7570 W Friend Ave	Littleton, CO	80128	303.973.7539
Forman, Scott	540 S Dahlia Circle #E-303	Glendale, CO	80246-1346	303.997.6447
Foster, Mike	12871 W Jewell Circle	Lakewood, CO	80228	303.456.2647
Fowler, Rena	485 Niagara St	Denver, CO	80220-6023	303.322.1967
Frost, Kate	7148 S Magnolia Cir	Centennial, CO	80112-6044	303.740.6111
Furlong, Ed	7381 S Monica Lane	Evergreen, CO	80439	303.674.5374
Gade, Glenn	120 Dexter St	Denver, CO	80220-5654	303.329.0471
Galli, Patti	15635 E Pine Drop Ave	Parker, CO	80134	303.995.4192
Garavaglia, Jo-Ann	9900 W 56th Pl	Arvada, CO	80002-2111	303.420.7911
Geder, Mary	13831 W. Harvard Dr.	Lakewood, CO	80228-4714	303.986.6127
George, Dan	5234 Apache Creek Ct	Castle Rock, CO	80109	303.589.8876
Gonder, Peggy	9861 Xavier Court	Westminster, CO	80031-2531	303.321.3465
Goulart, Chris	24127 E 5th Pl	Aurora, Co	80018	
Grant, Newell	1325 Cherryville Rd	Littleton, CO	80121-1221	303.761.9967
Graves, Lyn	7877 So. Kalispell Circle	Englewood, CO	80112-4647	720.870.1763
Gurth, Teresa	301 W Jamison Pl Unit 8	Littleton, CO	80120	303.794.9573
Haas, Francis	3333 E Florida Ave #102	Denver, CO	80210-2539	303.520.0831
Hack, Carol	1034 So. Steele St.	Denver, CO	80209-5133	303.777.7893
Hackos, Bill	597 Cty Rd 65	Evergreen, CO	80439-9602	303.670.8517
Hahn, Grace	8455 W 41st Ave	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-4302	303.421.6536
Hall, Sue & Harry	61 Golden Eagle Rd	Greenwood Village, CO	80121	303.221.0048
Hammons, Becca & Terry	5670 S Hillside St	Greenwood Village, CO	80111	303.267.0163
Harrington, John	1152 S Otis St	Lakewood, CO	80232	303.937.8239

Hansley, Paula	545 W Fir Way	Louisville, CO	80027	720.890.2628
Hart, Georgia	2856 S. Clarkson Cir.	Englewood, CO	80113-1780	303.781.0418
Hayes, J.B.	1517 W. Briarwood Ave.	Littleton, CO	80120-3632	303.798.9683
Heller, Pat	3936 Dale Dr	Lafayette, CO	80026	303.819.6745
Henderson, Judith	1200 Cherokee St #105	Denver, CO	80204	720.932.7505
Henwood, Mike	15946 Double Eagle Dr	Morrison, CO	80465-9624	720.84.5070
Hered, Ann	5401 S Park Terrace Ave #206D	Greenwood Village, CO	80111	303.284.7908
Heyda, Jacqueline & Robert	18650 Arrowwood Dr.	Monument, CO	80132-8774	719.487.8485
Hill, David	7115 S. Syracuse Ct	Centennial, CO	80112-1748	303.796.0638
Hodgson, Gordon	8312 Grove St	Westminster, CO	80031	303.815.9164
Hodous, Doug & Jan	6503 S Grant St	Centennial, CO	80121-2313	303.794.4490
Hoffman, Paula	1633 Ivanhoe St.	Denver, CO	80220-1419	303.321.3478
Hohn, Roy	6805 S Bellaire Way	Centennial, CO	80122-2124	303.770.5974
Holcomb, Eileen	3535 W 39th Ave	Denver, CO	80211-1918	303.433.4737
Hoover, Barbara	1727 W. Barberry Circle	Louisville, CO	80027-2448	303.604.1152
Horn, Irene	3024 S. Grape Way	Denver, CO	80222-6810	303.756.9606
Howell, Jeanne	5520 Morgan Way	Frederick, CO	80504-4421	303.774.9079
Hundertmark, Chuck	2546 Lake Meadow Dr.	Lafayette, CO	80026	303.604.0531
Hutchison, David & Rachel	8445 Armadillo Trail	Evergreen, CO	80439-6227	303.679.1503
Israel, Edie	304 27th St	Boulder, CO	80305	303.641.2738
Jackson, Gil	2660 So. Dahlia. St.	Denver, CO	80222-6105	303.757.3986
James, Debbie	6700 E 6th Ave	Denver, CO	80220	303.981.6585
James George & Jayne	5530 E 17th Ave	Denver, CO	80220-1437	303.321.7180
James, Lucy & John	6464 S Downing St	Centennial, CO	80121-2518	303.730.1545
Jargon, Jerry	1695 S. Fillmore St	Denver, CO	80210	303.777.9607
Jaunarajs, Visvaldis	2422 S Holland St	Lakewood, CO	80227	303.988.2293
Jenner, Jessica	1360 Peninsula Cir	Castle Rock, CO	80104-3711	401.499.1939
Johnson, Cyndy	2347 S Eldridge Ct	Lakewood, CO	80228	303.378.1335
Jones, Clint	1000 Corey St	Longmont, CO	80501	303.936.3874
Jordan, Pearl	8751 W. Cornell Ave. #6	Lakewood, CO	80227-4845	303.987.2802
Joy, Kristin	4625 Hahns Peak Drive #203	Loveland, CO	80538	
Joy, Pat & Ed	1450 Rembrandt Rd.	Boulder, CO	80302	303.545.5566
Kaller, Deborah	6528 Mar Vista Place	Denver, CO	80224	303.321.0724
Katz, Mary	3201 Yates St	Denver, CO	80212-1676	303.455.2814
Keithler, Mary	11322 E. Ida Ct.	Englewood, CO	80111	303.771.1421
Kellner, Brenda & Joey	9500 S. Estes Way	Littleton, CO	80127	303.978.1748
Kestrel, Sharon	4520 Xavier St	Denver, CO	80212	303.458.7998
Kibbe, Douglas	7953 W Quarto Ave	Littleton, CO	80128-4337	720.981.5689
Kiessig, Michael	9107 S DeerCreek Canyon Rd	Littleton, CO	80127	303.3227978
King, Jackie	318 Walnut St #W116A	Denver, CO	80204-1809	720.381.3314
King, Michael & Diana	7232 Old Post Rd	Boulder, CO	80301-3916	303.530.1860
Kingery, Hugh & Urling	PO Box 584	Franktown, CO	80116-0584	303.814.2723
Klaver, Elena	PO Box 529	Niwot, CO	80544	303.475.5189
Knudsen, Walter & Linda	413 S Devinney St	Lakewood, CO	80228-2438	303.985.2264
Koff, Kristina	350 Shadycroft Dr	Littleton, CO	80120-4019	303.794.1372
Kottke, Sandy	8556 S Davco Dr	Morrison, CO	80465	303.920.2337
Krause, Alex	1385 Dahlia St	Denver, CO	80220	281.796.7262
Krebs, Monna	12487 W. 38th Dr.	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-3819	303.421.6478
Kreider, Liz	1960 Leyden St	Denver, CO	80220-1626	303.333.8015
Kresse, Tom & Sara	24144 Sumac Dr.	Golden, CO	80401	303.526.4633
Kyle, Marian	17044 E Buchanan PL #43	Aurora, CO	80011-4915	303.367.4082
Lane, Judy	12015 W Ida Dr	Littleton, CO	80127-3104	303.972.3973

Langel, Jean	9274 W Finland Dr	Littleton, CO	80127-8542	303.324.4724
LeDonne, Kitty	391 Eastern Ave	Brighton, CO	80601	720.685.7833
Levene, Donna	12449 E Amherst Cir	Aurora, CO	80014-3305	303.750.4317
Levinson, Lois	9181 E. Berry Ct	Greenwood Village, CO	80111	303.770.9232
Lewis, Norm	852 S DeFrame Way	Lakewood, CO	80228-3034	303.910.1629
Lowrie, Chuck	3627 Decatur St.	Denver, CO	80211-2837	303.455.8417
Lupfer, Joe	19084 W 61st PL	Golden, CO	80403-1031	303.854.8328
Lynch, Kathanne	1298 Northridge Ct	Golden, CO	80401-8562	303.968.4750
Madsen, Cynthia	7459 S Tamarac Ct	Centennial, CO	80112	303.770.6534
Marciniak, Mark	4700 E Mississippi Ave #C-204	Denver, CO	80246-3110	303.691.2568
Margoshes, Joe	7624 E 7th Ave	Denver, CO	80230	303.341.8288
Marshall, Joann	7539 Isabell Cir	Arvada, CO	80007-7815	303.972.0358
Martinez, Robert	930 Acoma St #208	Denver, CO	80204	303.825.1190
Masteller, Dick	400 Rangeview Dr	Littleton, CO	80120-4014	303.794.5950
Maytham, Tom & Gloria	3882 S Newport Way	Denver, CO	80237	303.955.8301
Mayfield, George	4065 Field Dr	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033	720.289.9385
McBurney, Meredith	1459 Clayton St	Denver, CO	80206-2410	303.329.8091
McCauley, Martha	296 S 22nd Ave	Brighton, CO	80601-2589	303.659.7120
McClearn, Pat	444 Cherry St	Denver, CO	80220-5013	303.322.1900
McNamee, Marian	2809 Eaton St	Wheat Ridge, CO	80214-8407	303.233.5733
McNickle, Judith	4950 Dillon St	Denver, CO	80239	303.574.9941
Mendez, Pepe	2665 S Winona Ct	Denver, CO	80219	303.922.8932
Messier, Walter	1586 Goshawk Dr	Longmont, CO	80504	303.682.9675
Metzger, Mary & Chuck	4631 E Phillips Pl	Centennial, CO	80122	303.771.8465
Miller, Judy	6359 Secrest Way	Arvada, CO	80403-7475	303.716.1748
Miller, Lynne	PO Box 25471	Colorado Springs, CO	80936-5471	719.574.5591
Miller, Megan	9518 W San Juan Circ #302	Littleton, CO	80128	720.775.9710
Millikan, Marcia	1220 Linden Ave #D	Boulder, CO	80304-1550	303.443.6904
Mitchell, Jeannie	12301 Dawson Road	Elbert, CO	80106	719.494.1977
Montague, Neil	694 So. Yarrow St.	Lakewood, CO	80226	303.239.8579
Montgomery, Alistair & Barbara	2512 Taft Court	Lakewood, CO	80215-1100	303.234.9134
Montour, Claire	1675 S. Wolcott Ct	Denver, CO	80219-4357	303.934.5305
Moore, Gwen	75 Pierce St	Lakewood, CO	80226	720.270.8049
Moore, Mary Ellen	5445 Cordillera Crt	Colorado Springs, CO	80919	719.650.3547
Mulholland, Peter	5562 Newland Way #8	Arvada, CO	80002-3147	303.423.0435
Mullineaux, Don	14155 W 54th Ave	Arvada, CO	80002-1513	303.278.7245
Mulvany, Bonnie	2701 Reed St	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-8114	303.232.8224
Munroe, Pamela	22363 Quail Rd Dr	Parker, CO	80138	719.989.4342
Nabors, Barbara	5925 S Meadow Dr	Morrison, CO	80465-2633	303.697.9445
Neuman, Bruce & Christopher	PO Box 150432	Lakewood, CO	80215	303.980.4495
Niyo, Kayleen	5651 Garnet St	Golden, CO	80403-2072	303.679.6646
Nunn, Colleen	6342 E Mississippi Ave	Denver, CO	80224-1454	303.584.0050
Oberbeck, Debra	11790 Fenton St	Westminster, CO	80020-5969	303.469.0951
O'Connor, Mary	7613 S Madison Cir	Centennial, CO	80122-3531	303.495.4394
O'Leary, Richard	11200 W 25th Pl	Lakewood, CO	80215	303.237.4720
O'Neill, Patti	8471 Everett Way Unit B	Arvada, CO	80005-2354	303.456.8012
Osborn, Nancy	2835 S Monaco Pkwy #2-206	Denver, CO	80222	303.584.9130
Owens, Christie	1712 Wildlife Place	Longmont, CO	80504	303.772.6048
Pantle, David & Sherrill	9 McKim Ave.	Baltimore, MD	21212-1245	410.377.0381
Parchman, Tom	2225 Lewis St	Lakewood, CO	80215-1336	303.274.7951
Parrott, Yvonne	336 Osceola St	Denver, CO	80219-1231	303.935.5769
Plummer, Sally	3333 E. Florida Ave. #39	Denver, CO	80210-2541	303.733.8164

Postmus, Clair & Beverley	620 S Alton Way, Apt 4D	Denver, CO	80247-1661	720.324.8895
Prall, Adair	5265 Skytrail Dr	Littleton, CO	80123-1566	303.797.3633
Price, Jane W	5613 Yarrow St	Arvada, CO	80002-2441	303.423.6477
Prickett, Dick	6591 S. Kilimanjaro Dr.	Evergreen, CO	80439-5318	303.674.0217
Prochazka, Mic	9090 Stuart St	Westminster, CO	80031-6433	303.428.5896
Raskin, Arlene & Jerry	4350 Chateau Ridge Rd.	Castle Rock, CO	80108	303.660.0033
Reetz, Polly	470 Clayton St	Denver, CO	802006	303.333.2164
Rhodes, Marilyn	29036 Clover Lane	Evergreen, CO	80439-8441	303.674.9895
Roller, Joe	965 S Garfield St	Denver, CO	80209	303.204.0828
Rose, Mary Ann	2572 Reserve St	Erie, CO	80516-2505	720.887.1251
Rouse, Jim & Marsha	206 E Fair Ln	Centennial, CO	80121	720.283.9028
Rowe, Marilyn	2611 E Egbert St	Brighton, CO	80601	303.659.8069
Rumely, Betsy	829 Detroit St	Denver, CO	80206-3835	303.393.1973
Sanders, Ira & Tammy	314 DeFrance Ct.	Golden, CO	80401-4884	303.278.7172
Schaumburg, Edward "Buzz"	3904 So. Idalia St.	Aurora, CO	80013-2509	303.478.4641
Schmoker, Jim & Karen	1824 S Youngfield Pl	Lakewood, CO	80228	303.989.2254
Seiden, Debbie	5068 Cherry Creek South Dr.	Denver, CO	80246-2291	303.757.1302
Selzer, Sandy	2662 So. Wolff Way	Denver, CO	80219-5659	303.935.5808
Shade, Bob	13861 W Dakota Ave	Lakewood, CO	80228	303.975.2476
Sharp, Lori	8405 S Moore St	Littleton, CO	80127-4284	303.979.5465
Shaw, Betsy	715 S. Alton Way #9D	Denver, CO	80247	303.343.6699
Shissler, Barbara & Frank	7811 W Alder Dr	Littleton, CO	80128-5522	303.904.7269
Silverman, Arnold	4505 So. Yosemite St. #137	Denver, CO	80237-2518	303.692.8965
Silvestri, Patricia	2344 Meadows Ln	Castle Rock, CO	80104-9479	720.838.4668
Slingsby, Paul	3710 Teller St.	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-6243	303.422.3728
Smith, Danny & Denise	7266 N Hyperion Way	Parker, CO	80134	303.841.8307
Smith, Gregory	2764 Dayton St	Denver, CO	80238	303.503.1857
Smith, Melissa W	1423 S Victor St	Aurora, CO	80012-4342	303.671.8092
Smith, Steve & Kathryn	560 So. Ogden St.	Denver, CO	80209-4418	303.744.0372
Spanberger, Peter	5540 So. Franklin St.	Greenwood Village, CO	80121-1319	303.761.8316
Sperl, Frances	PO Box 21032	Denver, CO	80221-0032	303.426.4267
Starr, Laurel	697 Somerset Dr	Golden, CO	80401-4809	303.271.1089
Stebbins, William	PO Box 101120	Denver, CO	80250-1120	303.918.5600
Steinkamp, Rick & Connie	13381 W. 54th Ave.	Arvada, CO	80002-1709	303.420.5039
Stevenson, Steve & Jean	19513 E Princeton Pl	Aurora, CO	80013-4507	303.699.5135
Stone, Padmani	8555 Fairmount Dr Apt F104	Denver, CO	80247-6506	303.910.2379
Stratton, Harriet	5931 S Crestview St	Littleton, CO	80120-2805	303.798.9924
Stroup, Jeffery	6352 S Coventry Ln	Littleton, CO	80123-6742	303.810.1045
Stuvel, Margaret	7885 Vallejo St.	Denver, CO	80221-3876	303.429.3945
Swalm, Marleen	7250 S Ivy Ct	Centennial, CO	80112-1506	303.694.9390
Sweeney, Alice	5155 W Quincy Ave #D-105	Denver, CO	80236-3256	303.985.8247
Takamine, Joyce	5449 Omaha Place	Boulder, CO	80303	303.554.9785
Tallmadge, Jenny	7999 E 5th Ave	Denver, CO	80230-6490	303.204.7974
Tavery, Mary Ann	PO Box 12260	Denver, CO	80212-0260	303.433.0224
Teuton, Cheryl	12659 E Villanova Dr	Aurora, CO	80014-1911	303.912.3341
Thompson, Ashley	1050 Cherokee St Apt 401	Denver, CO	80204-4053	714.655.9687
Thornton-Kolbe, Charles & Jennifer	2284 S Josephine St	Denver, CO	80210-4806	303.777.4764
Thomas, Barbara	6224 Xavier Ct	Arvada, CO	80003	303.279.3370
Townsend, Darth	4567 Grove St	Denver, CO	80211	303.477.3852
Troth, Ann	13625 E Evans Ave	Aurora, CO	80014-4323	303.588.7561
Tuesday Birders	6377 W Geddes Dr	Littleton, CO	80128	303.979.6211
Turner, Bill	7395 S. Downing Circle West	Littleton, CO	80122	303.795.5128

Urquhart, Bill & Nancy	12664 W. Hawaii Ave.	Lakewood, CO	80228-3752	303.988.5068
Valentine, Cindy	8351 N Pinewood Dr	Castle Rock, CO	80108-9248	303.790.2805
VanLoan, Jean	2580 S Gilpin	Denver, CO	80210-5135	303.778.1267
Vickery, John	5055 Raleigh St	Denver, CO	80212-2644	719-359-6491
Vidal, Linda	855 Wooden Deer Rd.	Carbondale, CO	81623	970.704.9950
vonSaltza, Karen	9400 E Iliff Ave #256	Denver, CO	80231-5737	303.368.9961
Waddington, Jan Justice	11764 Nob Way	Golden, CO	80403	303.642.0926
Wagner, Diane	3344 W Tanforan Dr	Englewood, CO	80110-6222	303.794.4912
Wait, Peggy	806 W Peakview Ave	Littleton, CO	80120	303.738.9349
Walker, David	PO Box 934	Indian Hills, CO	80454-0934	303.881.6998
Walters, Chuck	7001 Pierson St	Arvada, CO	80004-1368	303.421.4548
Wathen, Wayne & Laura	6426 D Silver Mesa Dr.	Highlands Ranch, CO	80130-5887	720.344.0158
Webb, Rod	1001 E Bayaud Ave Apt 305	Denver, CO	80209-2374	303.777.2281
Weimer, David	3843 S Elm St	Denver, CO	80237-1008	303.757.4389
Wendell, Shirley	6631 S Abilene Way	Centennial, CO	80111-6601	303.520.7386
Wesorick, Nancy	947 3rd St	Berthoud, CO	80513	970.532.2194
Whiting, Jack & Joan	8651 E Amherst Dr #A	Denver, CO	80231-4076	303.755.2655
Widjaja, Kiki	4901 S Wadsworth Blvd Unit #7	Littleton, CO	80123-1256	303.904.9432
Wild Birds Unlimited	2720 S Wadsworth Blvd	Denver, CO	80227-3490	303.987.1065
Willcockson, Lynn & Liz	2698 S Niagara St	Denver, CO	80224-2634	303.757.7000
Wilson, Larry & Roni	10721 Rosalie Dr.	Northglenn, CO	80233-3351	303.451.6311
Witt, Gary & Lora	5960 S Race St	Greenwood Village, CO	80121	303.905.6985
Wittwer, Deb	7409 Robinson Way	Arvada, CO	80003	720.363.0662
Wuerthele, Bill & Suzanne	745 Glencoe St	Denver, CO	80220-5215	303.333.2519
vonSaltza, Karen	9400 E Iliff Ave #256	Denver, CO	80231-5737	303.368.9961
Yarberry, Scott	7852 S Upham Ct	Littleton, CO	80128-5462	720.232.7166
Yehle, Suzanne	46504 Weld Cty Rd 13	Fort Collins, CO	80524	970.897.2649
Zachary, Ellen	3047 W 47th Ave #311	Denver, CO	80211-1172	303.477.6449
Zick, Mary	959 Madison St.	Denver, CO	80206-4051	303.322.4553
Zilly, Robert	2460 Tulip St	Longmont, CO	80501-0928	303.532.9931
Blakeslee, Chris	6759 E. Lake Circle	Centennial, CO	80111-4460	303.694.4670
Hageman, Glenn & Jeane	448 So. Leyden St.	Denver, CO	80224-1249	303.322.6589
Jones, Tina	4400 Bow Mar Dr	Littleton, CO	80123-1404	303.906.5479

Mail

Barnak, Paula	1575 Fillmore St #12	Denver, CO	80206	303.388.2792
Barsch, Ursula	3455 S Corona St #719	Englewood, CO	80113	303.756.0860
Beltz, Don	2525 So. Dayton Way #1806	Denver, CO	80231-3916	303.751.4195
Bonnell, Ann & John	6377 W. Geddes Dr.	Littleton, CO	80128-4686	303.979.6211
Brachear, Dan & Renee	10315 Woodrose Ln	Littleton, CO	80129-5471	303.791.2543
Bunker, Thomas	3859 Licorice Ct	Castle Rock, CO	80109-8456	720.470.1046
Burgess, Marge	2905 Benton St	Wheat Ridge, CO	80214-8527	303.238.4055
Campbell, Frances	920 S Gilpin	Denver, CO	80209	303.733.7907
Carter, Diane & Jeff	9041 Raleigh St.	Westminster, CO	80031-3135	303.428.7370
Colsmann, Marv	3023 S Spruce Way	Denver, CO	80231-4159	303.337.1356
Corwin, Kevin E.	6417 So. Glencoe Ct.	Centennial, CO	80121-3536	720.482.8454
Cross, Donna	1942 Julian Way	Denver, CO	80204-5600	303.437.7362
Cruze, Doris	7441 So. Delaware St.	Littleton, CO	80120-4222	303.798.8072
Davis, Tim	11241 Parliament Way	Parker, CO	80138	303.841.6163
Duggan, Jim	6138 W. 35th Ave.	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-7409	303.233.0755
Echelmeyer, Patricia	2695 Newland St.	Denver, CO	80214-8032	303.233.4947
Eden, Bill	2776 S Clayton St	Denver, CO	80210-6444	303.692.0255

Evans, Gail	1480 So. Jasmine Way	Denver, CO	80224-1933	303.758.2231
Finch, Warren	455 Dover St	Lakewood, CO	80226-1147	303.233.3372
Fontenot, Eric	7543 E 6th Place	Denver, CO	80230	720.339.7328
Fransen, Von	4397 W Hinsdale Ave	Littleton, CO	80128-2511	303.972.3231
Frazier, Jean	2300 Willow Lane	Lakewood, CO	80215-1027	303.232.8603
Fredlund, Jim & Jean	900 Delta St.	Denver, CO	80221-8301	303.428.5420
Gerard, Leslie	6462 So. Forest St.	Centennial, CO	80121	303.770.0031
Gilden, Audrey	100 Blue Heron Ct	Greenwood Village, CO	80121-2121	303.520.0903
Godden, Irene	180 Cook St #204	Denver, CO	80206	720.941.0292
Haggerty, Merikay	626 W. Easter Pl	Littleton, CO	80120-4239	303.794.9350
Hankins, Derek & Peggy	7197 S Poplar Lane	Centennial, CO	80112-1631	303-771-8987
Hawkins, Kathy	2795 So. Ingalls Way	Denver, CO	80227-3825	303.969.8909
Holub, Edmund J	6612 So. Field Court	Littleton, CO	80123-3373	303.979.2194
Hudak, Art	3070 S Hobart Way	Denver, CO	80227-3823	720.581.1644
Hutton, Diane	1781 Fulton St.	Aurora, CO	80010-2205	303.366.0951
Ide, Pauline	4054 So. Valentia St.	Denver, CO	80237-1745	303.771.8462
Johnson, Tim & Candice	2290 Locust St.	Denver, CO	80207-3943	303.329.8131
Jones, Ellie	12630 E. 2nd Ave.	Aurora, CO	80011-8402	303.364.0311
Kardos-Klug, Linda	2270 S Zang Ct	Lakewood, CO	80228-4365	303.985.9261
Kondler, Alison				303.904.9140
Knapp, Barry	617 Glenwood Dr.	Lafayette, CO	80026-2527	303.665.9557
Lentz, Randy	15903 "A" E. Rice Pl.	Aurora, CO	80015-6905	303.680.3381
Lohr, George & Bobbie	5375 Sombbrero	Littleton, CO	80123-1426	303.797.3705
McAlear, Elissa	6501 Welch Ct	Arvada, CO	80004-2223	303.421.8714
Maslow, Richard & Elizabeth	5162 W. Union Ave.	Denver, CO	80236-3321	303.798.9345
McCorrison, Ruth	4863 Hopkins Pl	Boulder, CO	80301	720.255.3783
McGehee, Rex	390 Harrison St.	Denver, CO	80206-4549	303.329.3319
Modesitt, Larry	5707 S Galena St	Greenwood Village, CO	801113721	303.740.7575
Montgomery, Robert	2800 S University Blvd #190	Denver, CO	80210-6065	303.771.4572
Moritz-Hale, Gretchen	3330 S. Logan St.	Englewood, CO	80113-2628	303.762.8560
Nelson, Sigurd & Dianne	2743 So. Pitkin St.	Aurora, CO	80013-2143	303.693.0118
Ostergard, Deb	6355 W. Ohio Ave.	Lakewood, CO	80226-4641	303.934.7690
Pautsch, Dick	427 Pearl St	Boulder, CO	80302	281.648.7496
Percy, Dorothy	576 Franklin St.	Denver, CO	80218-3624	303.333.2568
Pettinicchio, Joann	12905 Falls Rd	Cockeysville, MD	21030	410.561.0345
Picher, Lewis	735 Gaylord St	Denver, CO	80206-3718	303.393.9123
Pinkert, Ted & Nancy	22562 E. Alder Drive	Aurora, CO	80016	303.758.6647
Poole, Barney & Pat	761 Calgary Way	Golden, CO	80401-9361	303.526.4192
Pratt, Dick	757 Wade Rd.	Longmont, CO	80503-7021	303.651.6860
Rautus, Toni	6468 Simms St #F	Arvada, CO	80004-2653	303.422.7322
Raymond, S.G.	844 Spring Drive	Boulder, CO	80303	
Rhoades, David	6776 Lupine Circle	Arvada, CO	80007-7075	303.424.8633
Righter, Robert	2358 So. Fillmore	Denver, CO	80210-5502	303.692.8529
Rigli, Joe	PO Box 32	Fort Morgan, CO	80701-0032	970.867.5210
Roberts, Peggy	1941 Forest Pkwy.	Denver, CO	80220-1336	303.322.1288
Rodriguez, Glenn	4754 S Garland St	Littleton, CO	80123	303.971.0914
Routh, Nina	8448 W. Union Ave. #32	Denver, CO	80123-1835	303.987.8687
Schofield, Karleen	33 Yates St.	Denver, CO	80219-1032	303.936.8661
Schottler, Dick	25 So. Indiana Pl. #1A	Golden, CO	80401-5082	303.278.8035
Schowalter, Tim	P.O. Box 4191	Granby, CO	80446-4191	970.509.0138
Sell, Aaron	2441 So. York St. #302	Denver, CO	80210-5355	303.722.0430
Sheppard, Richard A	11647 W. 37th Pl.	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-5327	303.422.4492

Spencer, Robert	4430 Gladiola St	Golden, CO	80403-1856	303.279.4682
Stephenson, Jeff	5750 W 84th Ave	Arvada, CO	80003-1306	303.370.8319
VerCauteren, Tammy	PO Box 899	LaPorte, CO	80535	970.482.0865
Vollmer, Bobbi	3333 E Florida Ave #88	Denver, CO	80210	303.756.4110
Weslar, Karen & John	265 Jackson St	Denver, CO	80206	303.377.6299
Wesley, Jannette	7196 W Vassar Ave	Lakewood, CO	80227-3302	303-985-5299
Wing, Sherman	PO Box 690	Indian Hills, CO	80454-0690	303.324.9636

Joint Membership Names

Balog, John	5445 Cordillera Crt	Colorado Springs, CO	80919	719.440.8115
Bickett, Karen	2662 So. Wolff Way	Denver, CO	80219-5659	303.935.5808
Brooke, John (Dan)	12659 E Villanova Dr	Aurora, CO	80014-1911	303.745.2346
Campbell, Gail	3627 Decatur St.	Denver, CO	80211-2837	303.455.8417
Campbell, Nan	1262 Steele St	Denver, CO	80206-3424	303.320.4597
Clark, Karen	19084 W 61st PL	Golden, CO	80403-1031	303854.8329
Crawford, Mike	5670 W 115th Ct	Westminster, CO	80020	303.596.4034
Gillette, Peter	6355 W. Ohio Ave.	Lakewood, CO	80226-4641	303.934.7690
Ginn, RD	2501 York St	Denver, CO	80205	303.329.8350
Gobeille, Bob	46504 Weld Cty Rd 13	Ft Collins, CO	80524	
Goldthwait, MacKenzie	7953 Quarto Ave	Littleton, CO	80128-4337	720.981.5689
Hackos, JoAnn	597 Cty Rd 65	Evergreen, CO	80439-9602	303.670.8517
Hahn, Sonja	5260 Garrison St #11	Arvada, CO	80002-3366	303.422.7958
Harrison, Ray	4520 Xavier St	Denver, CO	80212	303.458.7998
Jannotta, Marjorie	2546 Lake Meadow Dr.	Lafayette, CO	80026	303.604.0531
King, Diana	7232 Old Post Rd	Boulder, CO	80301-3916	303.530.1860
McGuire, Michael	6528 Mar Vista Place	Denver, CO	80224	303.321.0724
McDonald, Lisa	5055 Raleigh St	Denver, CO	80212	719.359.6491
Melichar, Keith	2809 Eaton St	Wheat Ridge, CO	80214-8407	303.233.5733
Menough, Scott & Sandy	2720 S Wadsworth Blvd	Denver, CO	80227	720.289.9385
Mayfield, Molly	4065 Field Dr	Wheat Ridge, CO	80032	303.777.0628
Petri, Jim	1712 Wildlife Pl	Longmont, CO	80504	303.722.3697
Pfeifer, Sharon	840 S Garfield St	Denver, CO	80209-5004	303.722.6048
Pool, Tom	2024 Goldenvue Dr	Golden, CO	80401-1725	303.722.3697
Spitler, Kara	930 Acoma St #208	Denver, CO	80204	303.985.5299
Sprague, Ann	9900 W 56th Pl	Arvada, CO	80002-2111	303.420.7911
Welschinger, Paul	4030 Field Dr	Wheat Ridge, CO	80033-4358	303.421.1900
Wilson, Michael	5925 So. Meadow Dr	Morrison, CO	80465	303.697.9445

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Chuck Hundertmark,
2546 Lake Meadow Dr. Lafayette, CO 80026
chundertmark8@gmail.com 303.604.0531

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Shade,
13861 W Dakota Ave, Lakewood, CO 80228
wrshade3@gmail.com 303.975.2476

TREASURER

Mary Geder,
13831 W Harvard Dr. Lakewood, CO 80228
mfg5000@live.com 303.986.6127

SECRETARY

Kay Niyo 5651 Garnet St., Golden, CO 80403
kay@kayniyo.com

DIRECTORS

Chris Blakeslee (2013) chrisabla@aol.com
Tina Jones (2014) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Ira Sanders (2014) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014) lynnliz2698@aol.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)
candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Meredith McBurney (2015)
meredithmcburney@msn.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015), wuerthel@ecentral.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place,
Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

Field Trip Schedulers 2013

January, Chris Owens, 303.772.6048, christiel@q.com
February, Jackie King, 303-287-1644,
Jackie.King@ccd.edu

March, Chris Owens, 303.772.6048, christiel@q.com

April, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

May, Jackie King, 303-287-1644, Jackie.King@ccd.edu

June, Mary Geder, 303-981-8823, Mfg5000@live.com

July, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

August, Jackie King, 303-287-1644,
Jackie.King@ccd.edu

September, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

October, Chris Owens, 303.772.6048, christiel@q.com

November, Jackie King, 303-287-1644,
Jackie.King@ccd.edu

December, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21, Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532, veronicaholt43@comcast.net.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt: veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson

rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Birding – An Extraordinary Way to See the World
Monday March 25, 7.30pm

A Birding Trip to Bhutan With Norm Erthal
April 22, 7.30pm



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

MAY 2013

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 49, Number 5

A Birding Trip to Bhutan With Norm Erthal

April 22, 7.30pm



Our visit to Bhutan (officially the **Kingdom of Bhutan**, is a landlocked state in South Asia located at the eastern end of the Himalayas) covered 18 days of birding resulting in a species total of 299. We also encountered numerous species of mammals with rare primates a highlight. On days when the sun was out, butterflies showed off.

The scenery is spectacular with high mountains, steep river valleys, numerous waterfalls, interesting homes, and flowering rhododendrons. Our lodging ranged from tented camps, spartan hotels, and some wonderful lodges. We ranged from passes at 11,000 feet to tropical lowlands.

*Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door, although this does cause problems for our hosts. Meetings start **promptly** at 7.30pm, and are open to the public without charge.*



May Field Trips

Saturday, May 4

Rigli Ranch

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121. Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water.

Sunday, May 5

Denver City Park-Photo and Behavior Trip

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, 303-604-0531. 0700. Meet leader at parking strip southwest of 22nd Ave just north of Ferril Lake. From Colorado Blvd, turn west onto 22nd Ave. and go past the Museum of Nature and Science. Turn left just before the zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand. Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake. We'll photograph and observe nesting behavior of Double-crested Cormorants, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Snowy Egrets at Ferril and Duck Lakes. For SLRs, a 300mm lens or better is recommended. We'll also walk the park for migrants and early nesters. An easy morning walking. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, camera with optional tripod and scopes. Half day trip. Limit of 10 participants. Call or email leader if you plan to attend. chundertmark8@gmail.com.

Continued on next page

May Field Trips, continued

Wednesday, May 8

Dawson Butte

Leader: Kate Frost, 303-740-6111. Meet leader at 0730 at the Castle Rocks' McDonalds Restaurant. Dawson Butte is a good, gentle walking area which is slightly higher in elevation than Denver so you can expect to see mountain and foothill birds. Half day trip. Bring a picnic lunch and plenty to drink. Please call leader to register for this trip.



31st Annual Spring Bird Count – 2013

Everyone welcome – just show up. More eyes spot more birds.

Friday, May 10

Cherry Creek Reservoir, Leader: Bob Brown (303-791-6204). Meet at 0630 at the Marina on west side (near Cherry Creek High School) in Cherry Creek State Park. State Parks pass required.

Saturday, May 11

Waterton. Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723, Meet at 0600 at Audubon Center/Discovery Pavilion (left turn immediately after turning from Wadsworth (Colo. 121) onto Waterton/Roxborough road (4.4 miles south of C470) and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon). Downstream. 4-5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed.

Chatfield State Park, Leader, Joey Kellner, 303.978.1748, Meet at 0600 at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks Pass required.

Lower Bear Creek, Leader: Mike Henwood, 303.716.8551, cell 720.840.5070, hawkhen@aol.com. Meet at 0600 at parking lot on Morrison Road at C470, northwest corner, next to the Conoco station.

Barr Lake State Park, Leader: Dick Schottler, 303.278.8035 Call leader if you plan to go. Meet at 0600 at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Exit I-76 at Bromley Lane; go east about ¼ mile and turn right (south) on Lark Bunting Lane, to end of road. This is a ten-mile, all-day hike around the lake. State Parks pass required.

Sunday, May 12

Barr Lake periphery, Leader: Dick Anderson, 303.757.4582. Meet at 0730 on access road to entrance station at Barr Lake State Park. This trip does not involve much walking -- good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

Castlewood Canyon State Par, Leaders: Kirk Huffstater, (303.660.9298), Meet at 0630 at old entrance. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance. State Parks pass

Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Leader: Urling Kingery, 303.814.2723. Space limited; contact Leader to register.

Saturday, May 18

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

Leader: Kevin Corwin, 720.482.8454. Meet Kevin at 0800 at Prospect Park in Wheat Ridge for a ½ day trip. Bring water and snacks; dress appropriately, in layers, for the weather. From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 of a mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west. Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south). Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to the lake. We'll check the lake for waterfowl before birding the

Continued on next [age]

May Field Trips, continued

paved and dirt paths along Clear Creek for migrants. The walking is easy but may involve up to three miles of walking. Call or email the leader to register KevyGudGuy@aol.com.

Sunday, May 19

Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303.798.8072. Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a moderate hike which will gain about 1,000 feet in elevation as you climb up Carpenter Peak Trail. This trip often produces ovenbirds, golden eagles and grosbeaks. State Parks Pass required. Bring snacks and extra drinking water. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles)

Saturday, May 25

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: David Rhoades, 303.424.8633. We'll bird from 0800-1300, expecting to see grassland birds, ducks, raptors, possible early migrants, likely swallows, and possible burrowing owls. Space is limited by the size of the passenger van that we'll use. Meet at the parking lot of the Visitor Center. Call David to reserve a space and to get directions. Lunch optional (BYO).

Saturday, May 25

Creative Ways to Learn Bird Sounds

Leader: Alison Kondler, Time: 07:30, Phone: 303.973.3959. Meeting Place and Directions: Roxborough State Park Visitor Center. Take South Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield State Park to Waterton Road on left. Take Waterton Road 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road, turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Road. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). Go to top parking lot. This unique four hour program will teach you a variety of useful techniques to help you memorize bird sounds. We will start indoors with a fun filled presentation, then head outside on an easy, slow paced hike (1 1/2 miles) and practice our new found skills. Beginner to expert birders welcome! SPACE IS VERY LIMITED. Participants must PRE-REGISTER at the number above (during office hours). Colorado State Parks Pass or Day Fee required. Please arrive on time as a courtesy to the other participants. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Please visit BirdingByEar.com for more details.

Monday, May 27

Pawnee Grasslands

Leader: Chris Owens Home: 303.772.6048 Cell: 970.481.7271. Meet leader at 5:30 am at the RTD Park-N-Ride on the southwest corner of I-25 and Highway 66, exit 243. We will return to the meeting place late afternoon or early evening, depending on our success. We will look for migrants such as longspurs, flycatchers, sparrows, and warblers. Walking will be less than 2 miles but there may be some rough places we will traverse. In addition, on our return we will swing by Loloff, Beebe Draw, and Lower Latham to see what we can there. Please be sure RSVP to christiel@q.com. Bring scopes, binoculars, lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Be sure to dress for the predicted weather.

Scheduled by Chuck Hundertmark
For Jackie King

From Niña Routh...

"Thank you" to Scott Menough at the Lakewood Wild Birds Unlimited (on behalf of DFO) for their generous donation of 20# of birdseed to the Fawnbrook Inn for the rosy finches.

“How The Sausage Is Made...”

Or, What Your DFO Board Is Working On...Board Discussions, Actions, and Goals from both the February 21, 2013, and the March 21, 2013, board meetings

Membership (Mary Cay Burger): The DFO membership as of March 20th was 373 members, with 293 e-mail and 80 USPS recipients of the *Lark Bunting*. Non-renewing members were deleted from the DFO roster as of Feb. 28. The board voted NOT to reprint and re-mail the 2013 DFO Membership Roster. There are several lists; every member's name appears on at least one of these lists.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Geder, DFO Treasurer): As of Feb. 20, 2013, the Operating Fund balance was \$22,304.99 and the Project Funds balance was \$8,305, totaling \$30,609.99. Mary presented the budget for 2013 which was discussed, voted on, and accepted by the board. The members of the new Investment Committee are Linda Farrell (CPA), Dave Driscoll (retired auditor), and Mary Geder, DFO Treasurer. Mary also received letters from the U.S. Department of Justice regarding the criminal fraud case against Michael J. Turnock. The Denver Post published an update on the case (Thursday, March 28, 2013, Business Section, Pg. 8A) titled "SEC has settled Ponzi case for \$12.6 million". The settlement will be presented to a judge on May 28, 2013. Check <http://www.denverpost.com>.

Research, Education, and Conservation Fund (Chris Blakeslee, Chair, Carol Cochran, Candice Johnson, and Tina Jones): The fund's new guidelines can be found on the DFO website (www.dfobirders.org). The committee is currently in the process of getting out “the word” and soliciting grant applications. In March the board approved two more grants (see Grants article). The first grant for \$1000 was made to Rob Sparks of RMBO in Ft. Collins for Eastern Screech-owl research in the Ft. Collins/Poudre River Urban corridor. The second grant for \$600 is to Joe Roller of DFO, the Woodlyn Lions Club, and the Friends of Last Chance Oasis for avian habitat restoration following the 2012 wildfire in Last Chance, Colorado.

Nominating Committee (Mary Cay Burger): Chuck has agreed to continue another year as president, Bob Shade as vice president, Mary Geder as treasurer, and Kay Niyo as secretary. Chris Blakeslee is retiring from the board after seven years. The board and the nominating committee are working to find a Communications Director and a Field Trip Director. The two nominees for new Board of Directors positions are Mary Driscoll and Mark Amershek.

DFO Waiver: Chuck and Ira Sanders met with Catherine Hansen-Stamp, liability attorney, who is drafting the new DFO liability waiver. The board discussed at length the 2/22/13 draft of the liability waiver. Chuck and Ira will discuss questions and concerns with Cathy and have her make a few minor changes that will not weaken the waiver legally. This will be completed soon and then the board will discuss the process for implementing the new field trip waiver.

Policy Manual: The board continues to work on a comprehensive, updated Policy Manual for the organization: policies, procedures, job descriptions, etc.

Miscellaneous Suggestion: Chris asked if DFO might in the future consider paying to sponsor a nationally known speaker for a DFO meeting. It was suggested that the event might be co-sponsored by DMNS and held there using their ticketing process.

If you have questions about any of these issues, feel free to contact Chuck or any other officer or board member for more information (contact information on last page of the *Lark Bunting*).

Submitted by Chris Blakeslee, Retiring DFO Board member

News from the Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Committee

We are happy to announce that the DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Committee and the DFO Board have awarded two additional grants in 2013.

The first grant for \$1000 was made to Rob Sparks who is a Research Biologist and GIS Manager with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) in Fort Collins. Using thirty volunteers Rob is starting the first year of a long-term study to understand occupancy and occupancy dynamics of Eastern Screech-Owl populations along the Fort Collins/Poudre River urban corridor. Multiple years of data will allow estimation of colonization and extinction rates along the Poudre River. This species can serve as an indicator species for riparian forest health so understanding variables influencing these dynamics will be valuable for this species persistence in Colorado. Members of this research project will work with City of Fort Collins and with Fort Collins Parks Department which manages open space, recreation, and habitat conservation efforts along the Poudre to ensure results of this study will help to guide future planning and management decisions.

The second grant for \$600 was made to Joe Roller of DFO, the Woodlyn Lions Club, and the Friends of Last Chance Oasis for avian habitat restoration following the 2012 wildfire in Last Chance, Colorado. The fire destroyed a portion of the creek drainage where it runs through Last Chance, an area known for the migratory birds it attracts. This group, in conjunction with Noe Marymor – RMBO Habitat Specialist and former DFO grant recipient, will seed the area with native grasses and wildflowers, and plant native shrubs and trees to restore the burned area.

Earlier this year we awarded \$2000 to Kris Haglund and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Archives Department for the Bailey Film Project. This exciting project will re-create two of Dr. Alfred M. Bailey's most memorable film lectures: the Alaskan Album (1964) and the Hawaiian Album exploring the Hawaiian Archipelago from the "big island" of Hawaii all the way out to Midway (1962).

You will hear more about each of these great projects in future *Lark Buntings* and at future DFO meetings. For more details on the DFO grants process and guidelines, check the DFO website (www.dfobirders.org).

Chris Blakeslee, Committee Chair

Watch a Nest to Help the Birds

Scientists ask for your help to understand why some birds are declining



Over the past 30 years, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Violet-green Swallows, Purple Martins, and Eastern Phoebe have dropped in number. The cause remains unknown, though scientists believe it may be linked in part to declines in the insects that birds eat.

Anyone who loves watching birds can help scientists study and understand their plight by participating in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [NestWatch](http://NestWatch.org) citizen-science project (NestWatch.org).

"Every year, thousands of volunteers from across the United States monitor bird nests to help researchers track changes in bird populations," says Dr. Jason Martin, NestWatch project coordinator. "By keeping track of how many eggs birds lay and how many young they raise, anyone can contribute valuable data that may help lead to the conservation of these species." The nests of many birds are easy to find and observe. Tree Swallows readily use nest boxes. Barn Swallows and Violet-green Swallows often plaster their nests onto beams inside barns and under bridges. Purple Martins use large communal nesting houses, and Eastern Phoebe frequently nest under porch eaves and in garages. Participating in NestWatch is free and easy. Information on where and when to look for nests and how to properly monitor them is available at NestWatch.org. NestWatch accepts observations for all nesting birds, so information about any species is welcome.

So Sayeth the Speaker....

Doug Faulkner, chair of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC), presented a fascinating program on “40 Years of Colorado Bird Records Committee in 40 Minutes” to the DFO membership on 25 February 2013.

The CBRC is a Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO) committee, consisting of six regular members serving one or two 3-year terms and the chair who serves a life term subject to the CFO Board. The CBRC responsibilities are to (1) maintain CO’s official bird list, (2) provide a records repository of rare/unusual CO birds, (3) archive records at the DMNS, and (4) provide a means by which site reports can be used as scientific data and as a trustworthy state database for other states. Doug said CBRC members in the past decade are frequent documenters of rare birds, active and good birders, have extensive knowledge of bird identification, and are unbiased in their opinions. A list of current CBRC members is on the *Colorado Birds* inside front cover.

Doug stated the occurrence of rarities is a biological phenomenon to be studied like any other part of ornithology and must be treated from a scientific point of view. An example is the westward movement of the Eurasian Collared-Dove introduced into FL in the 1980s.

“Gildy” presented an interesting 1970 dilemma for CFO prior to the existence of a CBRC. A flicker with yellow wing shafts and a red mustache reported on the Colorado Springs CBC was identified as a Gilded Flicker and its occurrence was published in the CFO journal. The report included a black and white photo and prompted letters to the editor to substantiate or retract the report since that species had never before been documented for Colorado. It most likely was a hybrid yellow-shafted x red-shafted flicker. The need for a state-wide entity to review such reports prompted the establishment of the original committee in 1972. The CBRC currently has 3,155 records to date of 271 species or forms. These data are very valuable for researchers, e.g., pertaining to global warming.

Examples of CBRC Function

Red-backed Hawk: An example of CBRC function was the outcome of the sighting of a Red-backed Hawk originally reported as a “White-tailed Hawk” in SW Colorado in August 1987. It was subsequently rephotographed and identified by raptor expert Brian Wheeler as a Red-backed Hawk. Three documentations were received by the CBRC. The chair assigns a unique accession number to the record (in this case, #10-87-45). He sends documentations to each committee member. The first round vote must be done independently without talking to other committee members. In the second round (if needed), members can talk to each other and request outside expertise. The CBRC must weigh evidence for the identification using (1) written description, photos, sketches; and (2) probability of occurrence/provenance (including vagrancy patterns).

The Red-backed Hawk ID photos were consistent with that species showing a white cheek and rusty scapulars. Its provenance is S America year-round and does not migrate. There is no record in Central America. No falconers in CO reported having a captive Red-backed Hawk. The decision published in *Colorado Birds* in Fall 1991 was “not accepted” based on provenance—nonmigratory, probably not capable of long-distance migration. Doug said the CBRC report stated that adding the species to N America would be in error. While the CBRC believes anything is possible, it seems presumptuous to say with certainty that the Red-backed Hawk arrived here on its own. Interestingly though, for eight years it arrived with, nested and bred with, and left with Swainson’s Hawks.

Baikal Teal: An adult female Baikal Teal was seen by many birders on Bear Creek near Evergreen, CO from 28 Nov 1992 to 23 Jan 1993. The species breeds in E Siberia, winters in Japan, China, and Korea and is a long distance migrant. Its vagrancy pattern includes AK and four records in CA. It is a common U.S. captive. The U.S. requires captive birds to be marked by one of four methods. Many photos showed no marks on this bird. The decision in Fall 1994 was “not accepted” based on concerns about provenance. The Baikal Teal was becoming rare in AK and in the wild and there were some escapees from Greeley in 1991, although this bird showed no captive marks.

Continued on next page

So Sayeth the Speaker...continued

Emperor Goose: The Emperor Goose breeds in coastal AK. One was shot in NE CO during hunting season and was being processed by a taxidermist. Larry Semo and Doug examined it and plucked a feather for stable isotope analysis, which reveals the latitude of the isotopes taken in with food and water while molting. The results showed that it molted at a latitude consistent with CO; however, the bird showed no signs of captivity. It was “not accepted” largely due to the stable isotope analysis results.

Possible New CO Records

Doug has received 12 Hoary Redpoll documentations so far this winter. Identification will be problematic; some researchers think the hoary and common redpolls are one species, but the CBRC will follow the current thinking of two species. Ebird reports and maps show extensive southern winter 2013 distribution of redpolls in the U.S.

Audience Questions

Doug said the CBRC must have new evidence to revisit old records. Storm events such as hurricanes can bring in rare birds such as a Sooty Tern and Magnificent Frigatebird. In 2012, >300 records were submitted for ~170 species. The Rufous-collared Sparrow seen by many in Georgetown, CO was not accepted by the CBRC due to concerns over its provenance. It is a nonmigratory subspecies from S America and Mexico, and caged bird traffic is common over the U.S.-Mexico border. Hopefully, Doug's instructive program will encourage more CBRC submissions.

Kay Niyo

So Sayeth the Speaker ... January Meeting

On January 28, for the first meeting of 2013, the DFO heard globe-trotting tour guide Bill Turner and expert photographer Bill Eden deliver a well-organized and informative presentation which gave the highlights of their recent trip to Australia. Bill Turner first gave a thumbnail sketch of Australia: size of the lower 48 in the USA but with merely 21 million population, concentrated on the coasts; second highest rate of avian endemism in the world after Indonesia, with about 50% of bird species being endemic.

He then laid out their itinerary, beginning with O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge and Lamington National Park near Brisbane; continuing on to the Darwin area and Kakadu National Park in northern (tropical) Australia; and ending in the Atherton Tablelands, in the Cairns/Yungaburra area. Next, Bill Eden presented a series of stunning photographs of which I will mention only a few: from O'Reilly's, an Australian Brush-Turkey, a bright red-and-black megapode which incubates its eggs in what is essentially a compost pile; a beautiful Crimson Rosella (parrot); and the perennial favorite Laughing Kookaburra. Bill did not neglect non-avian species: also represented from the same area were Eastern Grey Kangaroos (6 feet, 145 lb) and the diminutive Red-Necked Pademelon. From Darwin, he showed another colorful megapode, the Orange-footed Scrubfowl, which also incubates eggs in a compost pile; one of Bill's favorites, the Varied Lorikeet; a stubby-tailed finch-like Striated Pardalote, and many others. Bill enriched the presentation with some additional information about the birds as well.

My personal favorites, aside from the megapodes, were the Great Bowerbird, which decorates its intended lovenest with green and white objects only; the Azure Kingfisher from Kakadu area, which will follow a Duck-Billed Platypus to stir up prey (nice picture of a Platypus also shown, from Peterson's Creek near Yungaburra); the Golden Whistler, with spectacular yellow and black plumage; a beautiful Cassowary; an adorable Tawny Frogmouth with chick tucked under; a Stone Curlew with its peculiar beak from Newell Beach in Cairns; and many others. Sprinkled through the program were surprises like a wall of rock art from Kakadu, and several reptiles (Forest Dragon, Frill-Necked Lizard). Altogether, a most enjoyable evening that made me want to return to this amazing continent.

Tim Johnson

Travel & Birding

Tamie Bulow, DFO member and former president, says : “ In May the Hudsonian Godwits come through Chambers County, Texas and for International Migratory Bird Day (May 11) there is a celebration at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Texas Ornithological Society and Houston Audubon will staff tables and booths from 10am-2pm. NO Admission fee.” “My favorite May place to bird is Magee Marsh (south shore of Lake Erie) in Ohio. It is frankly phenomenal. Warblers are at their peak then. The biggest Week is put on by Black Swamp Bird Observatory”.

Check it out at <http://biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/HOME.aspx> To get the Black Swamp day, click on their logo on the website above or go directly to <http://www.bsbo.org/>. Tamie is now Executive Director of Texas Tropical Trail Region in Kingsville, TX

You have 2 chances to explore and take bird field trips in the south-west corner of Colorado headquartered in Cortez: **Ute Mountain/Mesa Verde Birding Festival** <http://www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com> The keynote speaker is Mark Obmascik bestselling author of *The Big Year*. Festival Dates: May 8-12, 2013

The CFO 2013 Annual Convention Will Be Held May 16-19, 2013 in Cortez, CO. Besides a large variety of field trips, at the banquet you will enjoy a fun and inspiring talk from top 2011 Big Year Birder John Vanderpoel. <http://cfobirds.org/convention/2013>

Attend the **KOS Spring Meeting in Norton, Kansas May 10-13, 2013**. Bird the flatlands with short-grass prairie and scrub vegetation of north-west Kansas and the Nebraska border. http://ksbirds.org/kos/KOS_Spring_Meeting_2013.pdf
For more birding festivals further away you can visit www.aba.org/festivals

Mary Cay Burger

Karval Mountain Plover Festival

This year's Karval Mountain Plover Festival will be held from Friday, April 25, through Sunday, April 27. April is when the plovers begin arriving in Colorado. The festival gives birders a chance to meet the local farmers and ranchers whose land provides habitat for the plovers and other grassland birds. It is a weekend full of bird watching, wildlife viewing tours, entertainment, history, arts and crafts, antiques, and LOTS OF GOOD FOOD! For information, check the festival web site <http://www.karval.org/mountainploverfestival>.

Welcome New Members - and more renewal members to add to your roster!

Janice Howard, 2911 S Monaco Pkwy, Denver, CO 80222

Kyle Mattes, 10410 W Fair Ave #A, Littleton, CO 80127, 720.280.6586

Pat McClearn, 444 Cherry St, Denver, CO 80220, 303.322.1900

JoAnn Miller, 5013 S Allison Way, Lakewood, CO 80123, 303.233.6523

Harold & Betty Oliver, 2787 S Perry St, Denver, CO 80236-2257, 303.936.6902

Max Salfinger, 1488 Madison St #501, Denver, CO 80206, 904.233.6710

Christine Sibona, 226 W 3rd Ave, Denver, CO 80223, 303.722.0329

Bob & Nancy Stocker, 2885 S Gilpin St, Denver, CO 80210-6314, 303.759.4056

Thank you for the donation to the Research & Education Grant Fund; Nan & Steve Campbell, Mary & Dave Driscoll, Jacqueline Heyda, Bill & JoAnn Hackos, Hugh & Urling Kingery, Bob Gobeille & Suzanne Yehle, and Audrey Gilden.
Thank you to Marilyn Rowe for donation of two Motorola Talkabout radios to DFO.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Chuck Hundertmark,
2546 Lake Meadow Dr. Lafayette, CO 80026
chundertmark8@gmail.com 303.604.0531

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Shade,
13861 W Dakota Ave, Lakewood, CO 80228
wrshade3@gmail.com 303.975.2476

TREASURER

Mary Geder,
13831 W Harvard Dr. Lakewood, CO 80228
mfg5000@live.com 303.986.6127

SECRETARY

Kay Niyo 5651 Garnet St., Golden, CO 80403
kay@kayniyo.com

DIRECTORS

Chris Blakeslee (2013) chrisabla@aol.com
Tina Jones (2014) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Ira Sanders (2014) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014) lynnliz2698@aol.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)
candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Meredith McBurney (2015)
meredithmcburney@msn.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015), wuerthel@ecentral.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place,
Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

Field Trip Schedulers 2013

January, Chris Owens, 303.772.6048, christiel@q.com
February, Jackie King, 303-287-1644,
Jackie.King@ccd.edu

March, Chris Owens, 303.772.6048, christiel@q.com

April, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

May, Jackie King, 303-287-1644, Jackie.King@ccd.edu

June, Mary Geder, 303-981-8823, Mfg5000@live.com

July, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

August, Jackie King, 303-287-1644,
Jackie.King@ccd.edu

September, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

October, Chris Owens, 303.772.6048, christiel@q.com

November, Jackie King, 303-287-1644,
Jackie.King@ccd.edu

December, Candice Johnson, 303.329.8131,
Candice.Johnson@childrenscolorado.org

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Veronica Holt, 33925 County Road 21,
Elizabeth, CO 80107. 303.646.3829, fax 303.646.0532,
veronicaholt43@comcast.net.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303.771.1421,
email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is a back-up contact
person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email
d_d_hill@comcast.net.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt: veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Web Site: Richard Holmes Anderson
rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

A Birding Trip to Bhutan With Norm Erthal
April 22, 7.30pm



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/JUNE 2013/VOL 49 NO 6

WWW.DFOBIRDERS.ORG

Field Trips

Saturday, June 1

**Lair o' the Bear Park
(Jefferson County)**

Nina Routh, 303-987-8687

Lair o' the Bear is located west of Morrison, CO, about halfway between Idledale and Kittredge.

Meet at 8 a.m. at Lair o' the Bear. Bear Creek runs through the park surrounded by mountain meadows and forested hillsides. Many breeding birds.

Please preregister with leader. Trip limited to 12 people.

Bird until about noon and, for those who want, lunch at Bear Creek Restaurant in Kittredge with views of the hummingbird feeders.

Sunday, June 2

**Palmer Lake area
(Douglas/EI Paso Counties)**

**John Drummond,
jxdrummo@aol.com**

John will select a trail around the Palmer Lake area based on conditions.

Habitat is ponderosa pine/scrub oak, grassland and willow carr, cottonwood riparian.

Expect species like Lazuli Bunting, Virginia and MacGillivray's Warblers, Dusky Flycatcher, Ovenbird, Plumbeous Vireo, White-throated Swift, and Prairie Falcon.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Monument Park-n-Ride, exit 161 off I-25. The Park-n-Ride is on the EAST side of I-25 off Woodmoor Dr. We'll car pool to one of the Palmer Lake trailheads. Expect to hike up to 2 miles uphill for half day.

Continued on next page

Welcome to the new Lark Bunting

This issue brings a new look to *The Lark Bunting* as well as new editorial processes. With the retirement of Veronica Holt as editor, the board of Denver Field Ornithologists thought a new look was in order. We hope you'll like what you see.

There are other changes coming in DFO as well, but first here is a quick summary of what is happening with your newsletter.

Debbie Marshall of Marshall Publishing in Evergreen is the new graphic designer of *The Lark Bunting*. She is also the designer and editor of *The Dipper*, Evergreen Audubon's newsletter, and she designs *Colorado Birds* and *Iowa Bird Life*.

She presented two new design options to the board, and the directors were unanimous in selecting the look you see with this issue. Most conspicuously, you'll notice that the field trips for the month are listed down the side of each page. Those of you who receive the newsletter electronically also will see more use of color photos to liven up our pages.

DFO Secretary Kayleen Niyo, Ph.D., will be taking on additional responsibility as content editor. She will be working to solicit those additional color photos as well as articles about DFO and Colorado birds to keep our pages lively and a must read.

Continued on page 2

From the President

Chuck Hundertmark



Seeing the world by bird: Nancy and Chuck Bell shared stories and photographs from their world travels at the March 23 DFO meeting. Above, a King Penguin and youngster in South Georgia Island. See story on page 4. *Nancy Bell*

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Bring water, hat, sunscreen, snack. **Preregister for John's trip at jxdrummo@aol.com.**

Maximum 12 participants due to narrow trails and busy Sunday traffic.

**Saturday, June 8
Pine/Bailey areas
(Jefferson County)**

Chris Blakeslee, 303-694-4670

Meet leader on the east side of the RTD Park-n-Ride lot at S. Wadsworth Blvd. and Hampden Ave. (U.S. 285) at 6:30 a.m.

This lot is on the south side of Hampden and the west side of Wadsworth.

Alternative: Meet the group at 7 a.m. at Mountain View RTD Park-n-Ride lot adjacent to U.S. 285 in Conifer (1.2 miles past the Kennedy Gulch/Foxton Rd. turnoff on the west side of highway (approximately 2¼ miles past the Aspen Park/Conifer Safeway).

Bring lunch and water for a fun-filled day chasing mountain birds from Pine Valley Ranch to Wellington Lake and ending with the Bailey Heron Rookery.

All day trip; bring clothing for changeable mountain weather.

**Sunday, June 9
Red Rocks Park
(Jefferson County)**

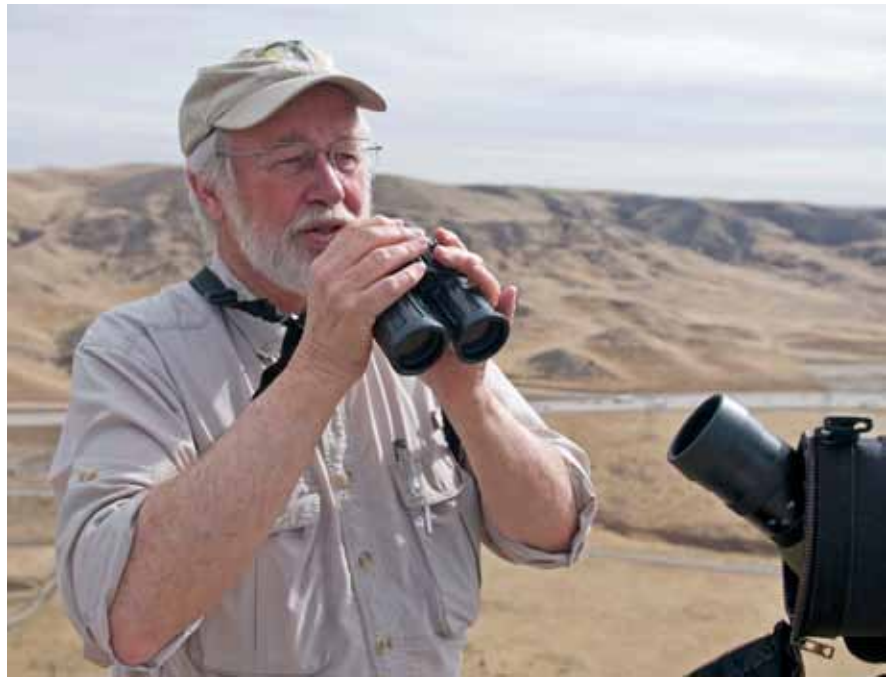
Tom Bush, 303-904-4576

Meet the leader at Red Rocks Trading Post at 7:30 a.m. for a half day of foothills birding.

Beautiful birds and beautiful scenery! Possible Prairie Falcons, White-throated Swifts, warblers, and other foothills species. Bring lunch, water, and scopes, if desired.

This will be a half-day trip. We'll end up watching the Trading Post feeders over lunch.

Continued on next page



Chuck Hundertmark at HawkWatch. *William Bond*

FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 1

She is the owner and president of Niyo Scientific Communications and Kay Niyo Photography. An outstanding bird photographer, she is a past editor of *Iowa Bird Life* and has held leadership roles in birding organizations in both Iowa and Colorado. To keep our pages lively, Kay would like to hear from members who have story ideas or photos to share with members.

Along with her past role as editor of *The Lark Bunting*, Veronica Holt has also been handling the tedious job of converting trip reports into a monthly summary published on the DFO website. Most of our field trip leaders are now posting their trip reports on eBird where they can be found by interested birders.

For leaders who are not posting their trip results, Veronica has been entering the reports. Because the reports can be accessed on eBird, the board decided, after serious deliberation, to discontinue the monthly summaries.

To assure that all reports are posted to eBird, new director Mary Driscoll has agreed to enter those that are not entered by the trip leader. Our goal is to have all trip leaders entering their own reports on eBird as soon as possible.

Trip leaders, when you finish your trip report on eBird, please share the report with "dfobirders" and wddriscoll@gmail.com. Those who are not yet using eBird can mail their reports to Mary. Her address is in the Trip Leader Guidelines on the DFO website.

New Trip Waiver

At the April 25 board meeting, the directors adopted a new trip waiver form. The waiver was developed for DFO by Catherine Hansen-Stamp, an attorney who specializes in recreation law. DFO Director Ira Sanders met the attorney at a seminar on risk management for nonprofit organizations.

The waiver is longer than what we are accustomed to and will take longer

Continued on page 3

Lark Bunting editor of 10 years retires

by Chuck Hundertmark

After 10 years as editor of *The Lark Bunting*, Veronica Holt has retired from that role with DFO. Despite a sometimes hectic schedule of horse shows in the international world of dressage, Veronica has consistently delivered DFO's monthly newsletter to members in time for them to plan attendance on field trips and our monthly meetings.

Veronica began discovering birds at age 6 in her native Scotland, where her father would ask, "Do you understand what that bird is?"

She became a member of the Angus and Dundee Bird Club and years later in Colorado forged a bond between DFO and the Angus and Dundee club. As we spoke on the phone recently she interspersed our conversation with observations of the birds appearing at her feeders at her home in Elizabeth.

She honed her journalism skills in London where she was a reporter for the London Daily Mirror. Holt came to Colorado via Canada where she worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and Radio Canada.

While she is known in Colorado for her role in the birding community, she is known internationally as a U.S. Dressage Federation Regional Director and official of the Federation Equestre Internationale. As with her interest in birds, her love of horses dates to her childhood in Scotland. Today she travels the country, sometimes as dressage show manager, other times as a technical delegate or FEI steward.

Though leaving her role as editor of *The Lark Bunting*, Holt hopes to remain connected with DFO.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, *continued from page 2*

to read than our previous waiver. However, once you are familiar with it, it shouldn't take long to scan and sign.

The board will be developing a strategy for introducing the waiver to trip leaders and trip participants. Once the waiver is made available to trip leaders, signing the waiver will be required for participation in any field trip.

Director of Conservation/Environment

At the April meeting the board also created a new board position, Director of Conservation and Environment. Meredith McBurney, who was elected to the board in 2012, volunteered to fill this new role.

Her first challenge will be to define the job. DFO members regularly speak up at meetings on environmental issues that concern them. Because we have an ongoing concern about these issues, we need a place to channel members who desire to be engaged with bird conservation.

Potential ways that DFO might support engagement with bird conservation and environmental issues include articles on those issues in *The Lark Bunting* and incorporation of bird conservation information in field trips and programs.

Finally, DFO Director Will Burt has volunteered to work with Webmaster Richard Holmes Anderson on the DFO website. Anderson has been handling the job of maintaining the website on his own for several years now. Will brings his expertise in information technology to the challenges of keeping the website up to date and informative.

Field Trips

Saturday, June 15
Pawnee Grasslands,
Pawnee Buttes,
Crow Valley Campground
(Weld County)
Ira and Tammy Sanders,
303-278-7172

This will be a full-day trip to the eastern plains. We'll be looking for Mountain Plovers, longspurs, raptors, and many summer plains species.

Meet Ira and Tammy at 5:30 a.m. at the State Parks and Wildlife office parking lot at 6060 Broadway.

Take the 58th St. exit off I-25. Parks and Wildlife Office is west of I-25 and a couple blocks north of 58th.

All-day trip. Bring lunch, hat, plenty of water, radios. Be prepared for predicted weather.

Sunday, June 16
Lyons area
(Boulder County)
Ray Davis, 303-823-5332

Join Davis in Lyons for some postmigration birding. Should get good looks at birds (with chicks) that nest around Lyons and in Davis's 35 birdhouses.

Should see Bobolink, 4 swallows, 2 eagles, 2 wrens, 2 chickadees, 4 finches, 3 jays, 3 woodpeckers, 2 bluebirds, 2 nut-hatches, dipper, grosbeak, catbird, 3 flycatchers, 4 sparrows, hummingbird, crossbill, merganser (hopefully with chicks), and maybe glimpses of Wild Turkeys seen recently on his property.

Meet at the Lyons Park-n-Ride just south of 4th Ave. and Main St. (by the skateboard park and library) at 8:30 a.m. Plan on walking level ground for 1-3 miles, car birding, and eating lunch on Davis's decks. Good photo opportunities likely, and all are welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

Continued on next page

Field Trips

Saturday, June 22
Staunton State Park
(Jefferson County)

Bob Shade,
home: 303-975-2476,
cell: 720-256-4376

Another new location for DFO!
This is a trip to newly opened
Staunton State Park where Bob
did an atlas block some years
ago.

He had 50 total breeding
species, including Red-naped
and Williamson's sapsuckers,
Olive-sided and Cordilleran fly-
catchers, Tree and Violet-green
swallows, Mountain and West-
ern bluebirds, Lincoln's Sparrow,
and others.

Meet at Morrison Park-n-Ride
on the northwest corner of
C-470 and Morrison Rd. (CO 8)
at 6:30 a.m. for carpooling.

The park location is about
40 minutes up U.S. 285 near
Pine Junction. **Limit 25 people.**
Please call Bob Shade at 303-
975-2476 to register.

This is a moderately demand-
ing trip with 3–5 miles of walk-
ing at 9,000-foot altitudes. No
rough trails. Need lunch and
water. All-day trip.

Sunday, June 23
Cherry Creek State Park
(Arapahoe County)

Mary Keithler, 303-771-1421,
mkeithler@yahoo.com

Meet leader at 8 a.m. at the
marina at Cherry Creek State
Park (fee area).

From the west park entrance
follow the signs to the marina.
We'll see what surprises we find
on the lake and riparian areas in
the park.

Bring water, scopes, snacks,
sunscreen. This is a half-day
trip.

Continued on next page

So Sayeth the Speaker . . .

Tim Johnson

Seeing the world by bird

Those who attended the DFO meeting on March 23 were treated to a whirlwind around-the-world birding trip courtesy of Nancy and Chuck Bell. The talk was entitled "Birding—An Extraordinary Way to See the World."

Nancy is an award-winning bird photographer (for example, National Geographic Canon Photo winner), and Chuck earned his travel spurs in the diplomatic corps.

They presented an unusually well-organized and rehearsed program whose grand vision was how birding can expand and increase our attention on the world, natural or unnatural. They alternated speaking, thus making the presentation relaxed and conversational.

Accompanied many times by recordings, they first presented a portfolio of endangered Hawaii endemics including Apapane, I'iwi, and the idiosyncratic Akiapula'au, a woodpecker simulacrum whose upper mandible is adapted for stabbing prey.

A major portion of their presentation came next, a trip through the Southern Oceans: to Campbell and MacQuarrie Island on a retired Russian spy ship, where Nancy photographed Royal Albatross and King and Royal Penguin; South Georgia Island, where we were treated to photos of Brown Skuas eating the afterbirths of elephant seals; and the Falklands, where we saw 220,000 pairs of Black-browed Albatross, the Flightless Steamer Duck (Is this a recipe comment?!), and a literate Striated Caracara leafing through a bird guide.

Following the focused Hawaii and Southern Ocean section, the Bells took us on an erratic but wonderfully illustrated tour: to the Orkney Islands (Northern Fulmar, Eurasian Oystercatcher); Patagonia (Long-tailed Meadowlark, beautiful song; White-tufted Grebe with babies on back); Ethiopia (memorable pictures of human daily life, excellent documentation of Abyssinian Ground Hornbill and Scimitar Bill); Gujarat India (where we saw the Bells help a camel give birth), and other places.

I have left out much of the Bells' presentation—Chuck has a daughter in Cape Town and there is much from Africa I have ignored—but consider this a heads-up to see and hear them again at a DFO meeting or some other venue!



Noisy Pitta
in Australia.
Nancy Bell

Roller receives Ptarmigan Award

by Chuck Hundertmark

On April 22, DFO's prestigious Ptarmigan Award was presented to long-time Colorado birder and raconteur extraordinaire Joe Roller. A retired gastroenterologist, Dr. Roller has balanced the tireless pursuit of birds with service to the birding community.

The Ptarmigan Award is presented to a member of DFO who has served the organization in one or more capacities and has contributed to the advancement of bird study in Colorado.



Joe Roller, left, and Paul Slingsby install irrigation tubing for restoration of trees and shrubs at Last Chance, CO, oasis on April 6. *Tom Wilberding*

Members who attend meetings at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science regularly will recall Joe's recent entertaining and informative talk about Rascal the Roadrunner. Joe was instrumental in guiding dozens of birders to catch sight of the vagrant roadrunner that lingered for months around Dinosaur Ridge.

Roller is a past member of the DFO board of directors, and currently serves on the boards of Colorado Field Ornithologists and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

A consummate net-

worker, he brings people together both within each organization and between the groups. This relationship-building instinct was most recently seen after a fire last year swept through the Last Chance oasis east of Denver. This crossroads on the eastern plains has long been a hot spot for birders during migration.

After the fire, Joe talked with members of the Woodlin Lions Club, which maintains a rest stop at the oasis, and was instrumental in bringing members of the local community and the birding community together to clean up and restore this way station for birds and people.

A birder since age 10, Roller has travelled on seven continents in the pursuit of new birds. He was one of the first DFO members to join Duane Nelson on Dinosaur Ridge when the HawkWatch site was established there in 1990.

A reliable attendee and participant in meetings of the boards and committees he serves, he nevertheless warns them that if a rarity shows up anywhere in Colorado, he will be on the road.

Joe's name appears frequently on the County Birding pages of CFO's website. He has posted the second-highest species count in state (464) and is the top lister east of the divide in Colorado (451 species). He has the highest species count in three counties: Jefferson (328), Morgan (239), and Washington (297).

Field Trips

Saturday, June 29
Mt. Evans and Summit Lake
(Clear Creek County)
Lynn Willcockson,
303-757-7000

This trip will traverse several elevations. We'll be checking out the summer mountain birds at Fillius Park, Echo Lake, and Summit Lake.

Please preregister with leader. Limit 10 people.

Meet leader at 8 a.m. at Fillius Park. Go west on I-70 to exit 252. Exit onto Evergreen Parkway (CO 74).

Go 2 miles on CO 74 to first traffic light and turn right into Fillius Park. Park at the shelter house.

Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen for a day in the mountains.

Sunday, June 30
No scheduled trip.

— Scheduled by Mary Geder



Mountain Bluebirds may be among the species sighted on a June 29 trip that will include Mt. Evans, where this beauty was photographed by Kay Niyo.

Denver's City Park: Could this be DFO's patch to track?

by Chuck Hundertmark

I never thought much about Denver City Park as a birding destination until about three years ago.

I had arrived early for a Denver Field Ornithologists meeting and had time for a walk through the park west of the Museum of Nature and Science.

The light on the grass and trees was fantastic and I was enjoying the walk. When I arrived at Duck Pond, however, I stopped in amazement.

Hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants were grunting and growling in the cottonwoods of the small island in the pond as they tended their multistory apartment nests.

Those of you who have heard me talking about cormorants at DFO meetings have gathered that I have a fondness for this sometimes maligned species.

My appreciation for them dates to the 1970s when I spent several years studying a remote colony in the hundreds of birds in New Mexico.

Since discovering the cormorant colony, I've made irregular visits to the park and led a few field trips there.

For a moderate-size urban park, it attracts an interesting variety of birds generating reasonable species lists during migration and winter, with an occasional Wood Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, or Long-tailed Duck.

What fascinates me most, though, are the ordinary breeding birds—the cormorants, night-herons, egrets, and Canada Geese.

During the breeding season, the intensity of courtship and competition within each of these species is worthy of a Hollywood action film.

The number of nesting sites for

Canada Geese, safe turf on islands, is limited. There are fewer nesting sites by far than there are pairs of geese.

On April 19, 2012, I found a goose lying on a nest at the base of a tree near Ferril Lake. The nest was within a few yards of passing walkers and dogs and easy pickings for any urban coyote that might stroll by.

When pondering where the excess geese might nest, I remembered an incident in 2010.

While monitoring colonial waterbirds in North Park, Paul Slingsby, Jim Duggan, and I, along with other volunteers, found an interesting bird nesting high in a cottonwood by a stream.

We spent some time trying to figure out what kind of hawk it was until we realized it was a Canada Goose.

As I contemplated the excess goose population at City Park, I began to wonder if some of them might be nesting in trees like our North Park goose.

To test that possibility, participants in a November 2012 DFO field trip fanned out to look for old nests in a large area of City Park.

Mark Amershek, Joan Cox, Jared del Rosso, Meredith McBurney, and



Double-crested Cormorant brings stick to nest. Bob Gobeille



Wood Duck in City Park. Teen birder Kylie Mattes

Padmani Stone joined me to count nests.

We counted 32 squirrel nests, one House Sparrow nest, one medium-size flat stick nest, and two medium or small cup nests. However, there were no nests big enough for geese.

All in all, City Park presents an interesting variety of challenges for the birder, from deciphering the breeding behaviors of colonial waterbirds to puzzling out the identity of wintering ducks and geese.

At a DFO meeting our speaker David Leatherman suggested that birders should adopt their own "patch" for regular visits to track the birds.

I wonder if City Park, adjacent to our regular meeting place, shouldn't be DFO's patch.

Karval Mountain Plover Festival: It's not just for plovers

by Kevin Corwin

This year's Karval Mountain Plover Festival drew 26 birders from as far as Baltimore, MD, and Port Stanley, Ontario, Canada, along with birders from Denver and the Front Range.

With 87 species recorded on the April 26–28 weekend, the festival set a new record.

Although the weekend added five new species to the Colorado Field Ornithologists Lincoln County list, Mountain Plovers proved challenging to find.

Typically we see plovers during the Friday evening tour at the festival. They are often quite approachable by the big yellow school bus used for the tours and give us great looks.

However, this year the Friday night tour failed to discover any plovers in the usual haunts.

Saturday dawned with folks anxious to catch a glimpse of the Ghosts of the Prairie, and we were certain we'd see a few on our way to the Brett Grey Ranch (TNC property) about 20 miles west of Karval.

As the morning wore on, the false alarms triggered by Horned Larks and Killdeer seemed to exacerbate the situation, and the entire morning trip failed to turn up even a single plover.

By noon the festival sponsors were getting quite nervous; folks had traveled from faraway places like Maryland and Canada, and even the distant country of Texas (!) to see Mountain Plovers.

Where were they? Much hypothesizing was done; were they not back from their wintering grounds yet?

Had the drought opened up so much more bare ground that they were dramatically more dispersed?



Mountain Plover near Karval. *Nancy Stocker*



Wilson's Phalarope near Karval this year. *Bob Stocker*

Had we all gone blind?

Regardless of the reason, we simply hadn't seen any. So right after lunch the Karval Community Alliance, in the person of Jeff Thornton and Dr. Vicky Dreitz, director of the Plover Research Project at Kar-

val, set out on an expanding square search of Lincoln County to find the elusive birds while we tourists enjoyed our visits to various properties to discover the many other birds (and Swift Fox!) in the vicinity.

Continued on page 8

Spring birding festivals await you from Maine to California

Acadia Birding Festival

Bar Harbor, ME

May 30–June 2

Don't miss the special Pelagic Seabird Trip, Saturday, June 1. Experience the birding wonders of Maine from boreal to ocean.

Contact Becky Marvil, 207-233-3694, www.acadiabirdingfestival.com.

Great Adirondack Birding Celebration

Paul Smiths, NY

May 31–June 2

The event features field trips to boreal birding hot spots, lectures, and more.

Possible species are Black-backed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee,

Spruce Grouse, and Bicknell's Thrush.

Contact Brian McAllister of Paul Smith's College VIC, 518-327-6241, www.adirondackvic.org (click on Events).

Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival Carrington, ND

June 12–16

Here is your chance to see birds of the prairie pothole region: Le Conte's and Baird's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, Gray Partridge, and Bobolinks. Four full days of guided tours.

Contact Laurie Dietz of Birding Drives Dakota, 888-921-2473, www.birdingdrives.com.

Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua Lee Vining, CA

June 14–16

This celebrated event, presented by Mono Lake Committee and California State Parks, is among the best of the nature festivals blending science, art, music, and great food.

Contact Lisa Cutting, 760-647-6595, www.birdchautauqua.org.

For more birding festivals, visit www.aba.org/festivals.



Le Conte's Sparrows are one of the attractions at the Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival in North Dakota June 12–16. *Kay Niyo*

PLOVERS, from page 7

Around 5 p.m. Jeff called our bus driver to announce they had conjured up three plovers, so off we went across country (it's amazing where those folks will take a big yellow bus).

Finally, there they were! The late afternoon light showed brightly off their breasts, giving us great looks.

One male worked on a scrape

and performed both aggression and courtship displays for us (actually for the other male and the female, but we enjoyed them, too).

Though we were famished and there was a great chuckwagon dinner awaiting us in Karval, we were loath to leave them.

After all, without the plovers it is most probable none of us would have

ever heard of Karval, met its amazing people, or experienced its wonderful community.

And an 87-species list for a short weekend ain't bad, either.

New species for the county were Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Green-tailed Towhee.

Karval—it's great for birding!

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2014)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2014)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2013

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	303-287-1644
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
May	Jackie King	303-287-1644
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
August	Jackie King	303-287-1644
September	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	303-287-1644
December	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Grants

Chris Blakeslee chrisabla@aol.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Webmaster

Richard Holmes Anderson rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list www.cfobirds.org

Colorado Rare Bird Alert

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hlif, Dick Schottler 303-650-8750

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check www.dfobirders.org, Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303-659-8750), or COBirds.

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new and renewing members:

Liz Goehring, Denver, CO

Barbara Isaac, Lakewood, CO

Upcoming Speakers

John Vanderpoel Aug. 26
“My Big Year”

Lynn Wickersham Sept. 23
“Report on Colorado Atlas II”

Brian Linkhart Oct. 28
“Flammulated Owl Research”

Susan Bonfield Nov. 25
“Engage Latinos Home
and Abroad in Birding”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 30 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month
June Field Trips

From the President
Joe Roller Honored



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/JULY 2013/VOL 49 NO 7

WWW.DFOBIRDERS.ORG

Field Trips

No trips scheduled for Saturday, July 6 or Sunday, July 7 due to large number of weekday trips this month.

Wednesday, July 10 Lost Lake (Boulder County) Wilderness, Wildflowers & Wings!

**Rhonda Kelly
cell: 303-386-2311**

Limit 8 people, so call leader for meeting place and to arrange car pools.

Meet leader in Morrison at 6:45 a.m. (departure time 7 a.m., call if running late) and return departure at 2 p.m.

Drive time is 1.25 hour each way. 4WD high-clearance vehicles are needed to reach the trailhead.

If you have one, please let the leader know if you are willing to volunteer as a driver for carpooling purposes.

Lost Lake is located just outside the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area near Eldora.

This 2.7 mile R/T hike is highlighted by aspen, wildflowers, streams, waterfalls, and a dramatic alpine backdrop.

It begins at 9009 feet elevation and rises steadily to 9786 feet at the lake. Snow may linger on the trail well into summer.

Check weather conditions at www.noaa.gov the evening before to determine clothing/gear needs.

Bring ample water, sunscreen, lunch, and radios (if available) for this all day trip.

Possible species: Gray Jay,

Continued on page 6

DFO awards \$5000 in grants

Chris Blakeslee

In 2013 the Denver Field Ornithologists awarded a record-breaking \$5000 in grants divided between five exciting projects!

Among these grants all of our goals have been covered: avian research, education, and conservation of habitat for birds. This effort follows our very successful 2012 grant year in which we gave out \$3300 divided between four grants.

These grants were made possible by the incredible support of the DFO membership including Bob Richter's \$1200 matching challenge and large donations from Bob Richter and Mark Amershek.

You heard reports on the 2012 grants at DFO meetings, and read reports on the DFO website (www.dfobirders.org) and in *The Lark Bunting*. The 2013 grants are described below.

The first grant of \$2000 was awarded to Kris Haglund and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Archives Dept. for the Bailey Film Project.

This exciting project will recreate two of Dr. Alfred M. Bailey's most memorable film lectures: the Alaskan Album (1964) and the Hawaiian Album

Continued on page 6



Broad-tailed Hummingbird feeding from "Firecracker" *Penstemon eatonii*. Kay Niyo

Last Chance: the oasis, the birds, and the people

by Joe Roller

On the Eastern Plains of Colorado, at the intersection of Highways 36 and 71, lies the hamlet of Last Chance.

It was homesteaded in 1904 by Charlie Harbert, whose descendants still live at the crossroads.

Charlie farmed it, and when US Route 36 was constructed in 1934, he built a gas station and cafe.

It was named “Last Chance” as a dire warning—your “last chance” to fill up with food and fuel before setting out for Kansas.

But Last Chance hit a speed bump and fell by the wayside in the 1950s when I-70 was built.

The old motel fell vacant, with Barn Swallows still checking in and out, but tourists no more.

Although only a handful of people still live in Last Chance, it is the heart of a thriving community, based on the Woodlin K-12 School, the Howard Methodist Church, and the Woodlin Lions Club, whose members in 1963 built the inviting Charlie Harbert Memorial Park, with picnic tables,



Yellow Warbler. Kay Niyo

shade trees, and a privy.

Why does Last Chance hold a special place in the hearts of birders?

There is permanent water in the small pond, so there are birds. And if birds are there, can the birders be far behind?

Summer breeders abound. But it is migrants for which Last Chance is famous.

We have been treated to Canada, Cape May, Connecticut, and, yes, Grace’s Warblers!

Common migrants include Yellow-rumped, Wilson’s, and Orange-crowned Warblers, Warbling and Plumbeous Vireos, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, *Empidonax* flycatchers, House Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swainson’s and Hermit Thrushes, and American Robins.

Without this patch of water and trees, where could they rest and refuel?

On June 25, 2012, a prairie fire, started by human folly, swept through Last Chance. Almost 50,000 acres of prairie and fields were destroyed.

Mile after mile of fences burned and need to be replaced at a cost of \$8,000 a mile.

Local ranchers and dozens of fire



On Clean-up Day, Tina Jones did the heavy lifting! Joe Roller

departments fought like hell to conquer the conflagration. It was the fourth largest burn in Colorado’s history at the time, but it was hardly noticed in the wake of the High Park and Waldo Canyon fires.

Nearly every green thing in the Last Chance Oasis was burnt to a crisp. The landscape turned black for miles in every direction.

As one rancher explained, “There was no rain all year, and now there is no grass.”

When I saw the devastation, I asked around and learned that the “birding areas” we had long enjoyed were privately owned. Who knew?

How could birders show their appreciation for that open access over the decades?

The upshot was the Last Chance Oasis Appreciation Day on Novem-

Continued on page 3



Last Chance fire clean-up crew on November 3, 2012 included Woodlin Lions Club members and birders. *Lisa Edwards*



Fire destroyed Last Chance, but pond scum survived! *Joe Roller*



Phoenix Rising! *Joe Roller*

LAST CHANCE, from page 2

ber 3, 2012, when two dozen birders worked with Lions Club members to clean up the area, removing everything from bottles to rusty oil drums.

On April 6, 2013, supported by donations and a generous grant from the DFO, we went back for habitat restoration, planting 130 berry-bearing shrubs and trees, installing a drip

irrigation system, and broadcasting native grass and wildflower seeds.

On each work day we brought food for a pot-luck lunch. (Nothing much happens at Last Chance without a casserole.)

The best part of the whole experience has been the friendships between birders and the great people who live near Last Chance.

What's next? We'll watch the oasis continue to rise from the ashes and support birds. And there will be no better place to find your next Life Bird—the Phoenix.

Excerpted with permission from: Roller, Joe. 2013. *Colorado Birds* 47(2): 96–101. (To read the original article, go to www.tinyurl.com/k2hcgdg.)



Figure 1. Click on the “Explore Data” tab.

Step by step: how to access field trip reports on eBird

by Chuck Hundertmark

With the announcement in the last issue of *The Lark Bunting* that DFO will no longer be posting trip summaries on the website, we received some questions about how to access trip reports on eBird.

Right now there is no easy way to do that, though Brian Sullivan of the eBird staff tells me that they are working on it.

For now, here is one way to search for a particular trip report. As an example, I will assume that we are searching for a report on a DFO field trip to Denver City Park.



Figure 2. Select “Range and Point Maps.”

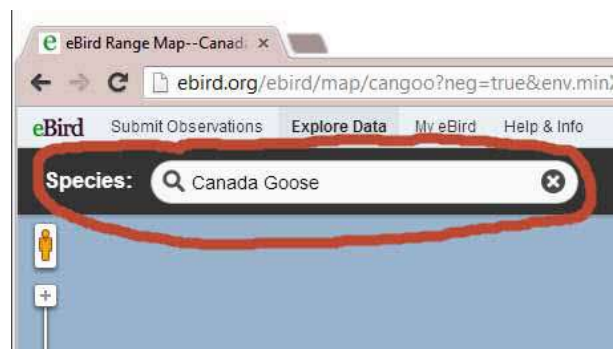


Figure 3. Enter a species.

Begin by logging in to your eBird account or simply going to the eBird website www.ebird.org. (If you don’t have an eBird account, opening one will change the way you handle your bird lists.)

At the top of the eBird home page, you will find a series of tabs (Figure 1). Click on the “Explore Data” tab.

This will open a page with several choices (Figure 2). Select the top choice, “Range and Point Maps.”

This will open a page with a large map of the globe and three fields at the top

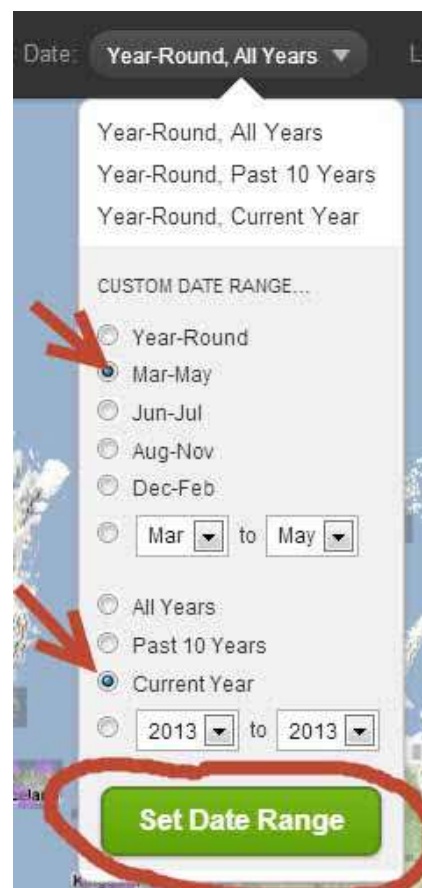


Figure 4. Enter date.



Figure 5. Enter location.

Continued on page 5

eBIRD, from page 4

of the page (Figures 3, 4, and 5). From left to right the **fields are labelled “Species,” “Date,” and “Location.”** This is where you must get creative.

To find a checklist for a particular location, you need to enter choices in each of these fields. So, you begin by **entering a species** (Figure 3) that you anticipate will be on the checklist that you want.

Since Canada Goose can be found on many of the locations where DFO conducts field trips, I often begin with that species. (For wooded or forested locations, I try American Robin, and for grassland sites, I try Horned Lark or Western Meadowlark.)

After entering the species, **click in the date field**, and you will see a pull down menu (Figure 4). From this menu, you can narrow the range of dates.

In the example, I’ve assumed we are looking for a May DFO field trip in the current year. Making the search as narrow as you can will make it easier to find the checklist you are looking for.

Once you have selected your date range, it is essential to **click the green “Set Date Range” button at the bottom of the menu.**

Next, **enter the location**, in this case, Denver City Park. As you enter the name of the location, a pull down menu will appear with several location choices (Figure 5). In this case, we will select “City Park, Denver, CO.”

This will take you to a map of Denver that includes City Park (Figure 6). You will see a series of tear drops in red or blue on the map.

The small tear drops represent personal locations while the large tear drops represent hotspots. **Select one of the hotspots by clicking on it.**

Selecting the hotspot will produce a pop up menu with a list of recent checklists (Figure 7). Scan the list until you see the DFO field trip you are looking for.

If you don’t see the DFO trip, you may need to try one or more of the other hotspots until you find the checklist you want. **Clicking on the checklist will open the list.**

When I’m leading a trip, I also like to search the recent checklists for the location of the trip to get an idea of what other birders have been finding.

There’s much more to explore in eBird, but that’s an adventure for another time.



Figure 6. Click on hot spot.

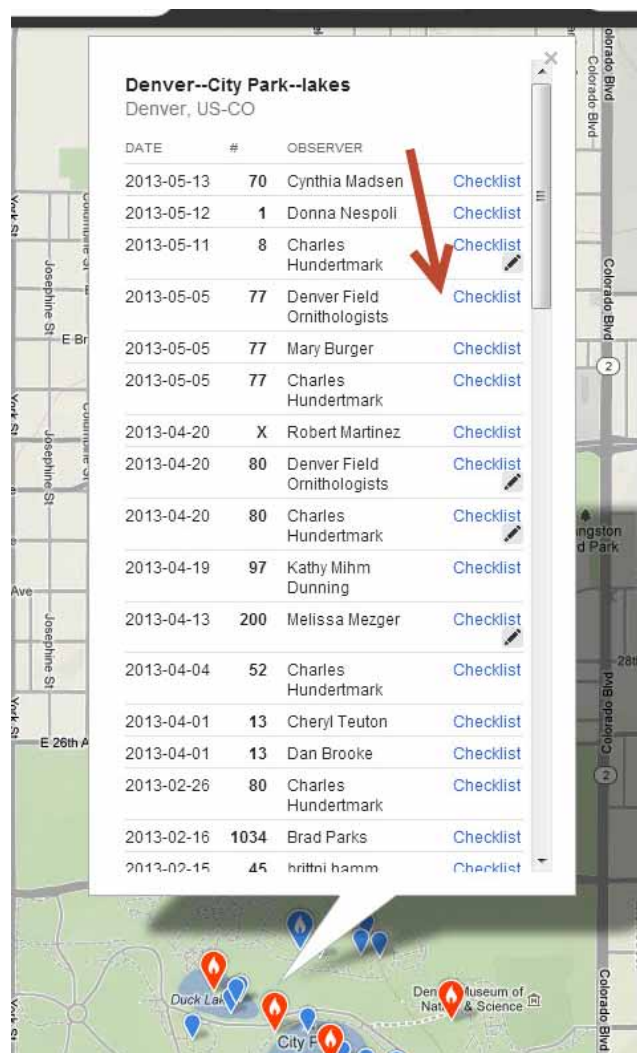


Figure 7. Open a checklist.

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Pine Grosbeak, Hammond's Flycatcher, Red Crossbill, Dusky Grouse, Mountain Chickadee, Clark's Nutcracker, Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Butterflies abound in this area.



A territorial Willet at Walden Reservoir. *Chuck Hundertmark*

**Friday, July 12–Sunday, July 14
North Park (Jackson County)
Chris Owens, christiel@q.com
home: 303-772-6048
cell: 970-481-7271**

Meet at 7 a.m. at Jim Hamm Park to begin our adventure to North Park, Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuge, and points in transit.

Since this is my inaugural trip, **participants are limited to 12.** We will caravan to Walden while stopping at birding sites along the way.

Sunday we will be more loosely organized and people will be able to return at their own pace starting after lunch.

Bring water, snacks, binoculars, scopes, radios, and appropriate clothing for the predicted weather.

Breakfast will be on your own and lunch will be in the field—so bring eats with you—but we will

Continued on next page

GRANTS, continued from page 1

exploring the Hawaiian Archipelago from the “big island” of Hawaii all the way out to Midway (1962).

The museum's ever popular film-lecture series, held for many years in Phipps Auditorium, often consisted of Dr. Bailey lecturing to the audience while a 16 mm silent film was running in the background.

This project will reunite the film and sound (Bailey's original narration) in a digital format that will give the viewer the experience of sitting in that lecture for the first time.

The second grant for \$1000 was made to Rob Sparks who is a Research Biologist and GIS Manager with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) in Fort Collins.

Using thirty volunteers Rob is starting the first year of a long-term study to understand nesting and occupancy dynamics of Eastern Screech-Owl populations along the Fort Collins/Poudre River urban corridor. Having multiple years of data will allow estimation of colonization and extinction rates along the Poudre River.

This species can serve as an indicator species for riparian forest health so understanding variables influencing these dynamics will be valuable for this species' persistence in Colorado.

Members of this research project will work with the City of Fort Collins and the Fort Collins Parks Department (which manages open space, recreation, and habitat conservation efforts along the Poudre) to ensure the results of this study will help guide future planning and management decisions.

The third grant for \$600 was made to Joe Roller of DFO, the Woodlin Lions Club, and the Friends of Last Chance Oasis for avian habitat restoration following the 2012 wildfire in Last Chance, Colorado.

The fire destroyed a portion of the creek drainage where it runs through Last Chance, an area known for the migratory birds it attracts. This group, working with Noe Marymor—RMBO Habitat Specialist and former DFO grant recipient, seeded the area with native grasses and wildflowers, and planted native shrubs and trees to restore the burned area. (See Last Chance article by Joe Roller on page 2.)

The fourth grant for \$1000 was awarded to biologist Jeff Birek of RMBO in Fort Collins. His project involves the operation of a fall bird banding station at the Lee Martinez Park adjacent to the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery.

A major component of this project is the involvement of over 500 students observing banding and participating in related educational events set up by RMBO and the Museum.

The total cost of this project for student bus transportation, staff, equipment, etc. is over ten times what DFO is contributing. Other partners in the project include New Belgium Brewing, Wild Birds Unlimited-Fort Collins, the Museum of Discovery, and the CSU Environmental Learning Center.

The fifth grant for \$400 was awarded to Jessica Fish who is working on her Masters degree at the University of Colorado Denver. She is working with Evergreen Audubon, Colorado Bluebird Projects, and other groups on

Continued on page 7

Need to know about the Habitat Stamp

by Mark Amershek

Recently, when preparing for a DFO field trip (July) to Banner Lakes State Wildlife Area (SWA) near Hudson, it came to my attention that there could be a need for a Colorado State Wildlife Habitat Stamp.

It would appear that at one point in time users of all SWAs were required to purchase the stamp for a \$10 fee. This was in addition to a license if you were an angler or hunter.

Since being introduced in 2006, the Habitat Stamp program has raised \$3 million a year, with these funds being allocated toward wildlife habitat conservation. Signs were posted at SWAs with bright red letters "Habitat Stamp Required." This requirement was in effect for three years.

Senate Bill 235, signed by Governor Ritter in early June 2009 effectively eliminated the \$10 fee required for nonhunters and anglers to enter a state wildlife area. Bill 235, which extended the Habitat Stamp fee into 2013, also created a new Colorado Wildlife Passport, which was available for up to \$25 for "nonconsumptive users."

This year the Colorado legislature passed a new bill (SB 13-175), which continued the Wildlife Habitat Stamp and ended the Wildlife Passport program.

According to this legislation, Coloradans are required to purchase the \$10 Habitat Stamp along with their fishing and hunting licenses. The Wildlife Habitat Stamp has helped to conserve 173,864 acres of key wildlife areas and secured 78,693 acres of new public access.

Bottom line for birders is that currently there is no need to purchase a Habitat Stamp. But if you would like you can purchase a fishing license and a stamp to support the work of preserving and enhancing wildlife habitats in Colorado. You may or may not be an angler—but it is still a nice way to conserve habitat.

GRANTS, *continued from page 6*

research into the effects of drought on the immune systems, migration, and reproduction in Mountain Bluebirds.

She will be using sites in Evergreen, Castle Rock, South Park, and Larkspur to obtain breeding data, and for collections of microbial samples.

Jessica will use bluebird nesting data obtained from the Evergreen Audubon Bluebird Trail in Evergreen, which our own Kay Niyo was instrumental in starting.

This has been a great year for our grants program and we look forward to bigger and better things in 2014. We thank the members of the 2013 DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Committee who are Carol Cochran, Candice Johnson, Tina Jones, and Chris Blakeslee (chair).



Mountain Bluebird. *Alistair Montgomery*

Field Trips

Continued from previous page

share an evening meal at a local restaurant Friday and Saturday nights.

There are several motels in Walden but there will be no official place to stay so make your own reservations.

Please be ready to carpool, either driving or riding. (Costs are shared at \$0.30 per mile divided by the number of people in the car.)

I have taken this trip with previous leaders and it can be loads of fun with very good birds. I am talking to people knowledgeable of the area and hope to have a plan in a few weeks.

To register for this trip, call or e-mail to get on the list. I will also have a wait list.

DO NOT TEXT. It will go unanswered and you will not be added to the list.

Sunday, July 14

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Karen vonSaltza

cell: 303-941-4881

Meet leader at 8 a.m. at the Prairie Loop log in Cherry Creek SP.

Park pass required or day pass.

From either entrance follow Lake View Road to the Prairie Loop parking lot at the south rim of the reservoir.

This half-day walk passes through most of the important habitats of the park, a distance of about 4 miles.

Trails may be slippery, so dress accordingly in boots. Bring water and snacks. Lunch optional.

Beginning birders are welcome. Cosponsored with Denver Audubon.

Continued on next page

Field Trips

Continued from page 7

Tuesday, July 16
Mt. Evans area
(Clear Creek County)
Bob Shade

home: 303-975-2476

cell: 720-256-4376

Must preregister. Meet leader at 7:30 a.m. at Filius Park shelter house.

Take I-70 west to exit 252 to Evergreen Parkway (Hwy. 74). Go 2.5 miles to the first traffic light and turn right into Filius Park.

We will arrange carpools for the 10 mile drive toward Mt. Evans.

Last year we saw Brown-capped Rosy-Finch and American Pipit, as well as mountain goats. White-tailed Ptarmigan and Pine Grosbeak are also possible.

We are going on a weekday to miss the crowds.

Bring lunch, hats, and clothes for all possible weather up to 14,000 feet. Will bird until mid-afternoon.

Saturday, July 20
Filius and Genesee Mountain
Parks plus hummingbirds
(Jefferson County)

Lynn Willcockson,

303-757-7000

Limit 10, so please call leader.

Meet at 8 a.m. at Filius Park shelter house. Take I-70 west to exit 252 to Evergreen Parkway (Hwy. 74). Go 2.5 miles on Hwy. 74 to first traffic light, then turn right into Filius Park.

Will visit a hummingbird "hotspot."

Sunday, July 21
Mt. Falcon Park
(Jefferson County)

Lois Levinson, 303-908-3403

Meet leader at 7 a.m. at upper parking lot of west side of Mount Falcon Park.

From C-470 and US 285

Continued on next page

Comments on new *Lark Bunting*



From the President

Chuck Hundertmark

We've received a number of favorable comments on the new look of *The Lark Bunting*. Debbie Marshall did an outstanding job managing the design transition, and Kayleen Niyo managed the written and photographic content to deliver an engaging issue.

Along with the glowing reviews, however, a couple of commenters expressed concerns or suggested further improvements. One commenter suggested that the layout with two or three columns was not ideal for reading on the computer.

The majority of DFO members now receive *The Lark Bunting* through the internet,

a trend with most nonprofit organizations. However, about 86 copies of the newsletter are delivered in print form.

We will be encouraging all recipients to make the transition to the digital edition of the newsletter. In the meantime, we will be working to strive for a design that works for both internet and print subscribers.

Two other issues that received comment were the field trip list and trip reports. One or two subscribers wanted to have the trip list in a form that could easily be printed out. DFO's Information Technology (IT) team of Dick Anderson and Will Burt will be making that available on the DFO website.

There were also comments about the importance of reports of DFO field trips. DFO's field trip protocols call for leaders to report trip results on eBird. (Instructions on how to do so are posted in the Trip Leader Guidelines on the DFO website.) A few leaders are still submitting their reports in writing. DFO Director Mary Driscoll is entering those reports on eBird.

Trip reports on eBird can be accessed by anyone, though as one commenter said, how to do so isn't intuitive. The eBird staff is working on improving access to reports. In the meantime, a step-by-step tutorial can be found in this issue of *The Lark Bunting*.

The Lark Bunting is one of the three main channels for communication between the DFO board and members. Other channels are our meetings eight months a year and the internet.

Over the past year, I've been including more information about the business of DFO in our monthly meetings. In the future, the internet will also be carrying more of the burden of communication for DFO.

Dick Anderson has been working to make the DFO website more dynamic and up to date. As we move toward strengthening the development of consistency among trip leaders, the DFO website will be carrying much of the load for that development effort. This will require even more attention to the website.

Moreover, other internet tools like blast emails, Facebook, and Twitter have become important for reaching younger members of the birding community. Director Will Burt is joining Dick to work with him on the website and other internet communication channels. In the year ahead, we should see more progress in this arena.

So Sayeth the Speaker . . .

Kay Niyo

On April 22, 2013, Norm Erthal, a past president of DFO, presented a fascinating program on his birding trip to the Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan April 11–29, 2012.

It is a landlocked, mountainous country in South Asia bordered by India and China and located at the eastern end of the Himalayas. His small group of seven saw 299 species of the possible 606 total bird species that have been seen in all seasons in Bhutan.

Although Bhutan does not have any endemic bird species, about 240 of its bird species are Himalayan endemics or reside in adjacent northeast India and Bangladesh. Norm's group also saw five primate, one pika, and many butterfly and moth species.

The country is small (about 14,000 square miles) equal to the combined area of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, with a population of 743,000.

There is one main east/west curvy, mountainous national highway that is often a single lane and has a few spurs north and south. Norm said their driving speed was 25 mph. The many road crews of men and women working on the often treacherous roads are from India, and road repair techniques are very antiquated.

Norm's group began their journey in the southeast corner of the country and traveled to the northwest corner. They had a local guide as well as locals who prepared excellent food and set up a tent camp for some nights in the western part of the country. They stayed in a Spartan hotel and some nice lodges along the route.

The scenery was spectacular with high mountains, steep river valleys, numerous waterfalls, interesting homes, and flowering rhododendrons and orchids. They traveled over passes at 11,000 feet with near freezing weather to tropical lowlands with 90-degree heat. It was often foggy, and tops of mountains where many poles of prayer flags are placed were windy. There was very little mechanized agriculture and most land is too steep to grow crops.

Some English is spoken in cities, but very little is spoken in the rest of the country. The government allows only 50,000 tourists to visit Bhutan each year. Therefore, it is a relatively expensive country to tour. Norm has several future birding trips in the planning stages.



Blue-throated Barbet in Bhutan. Peter Roxburgh



Rufous-necked Hornbill in Bhutan. Peter Roxburgh

Field Trips

Continued from previous page

South: Turn right at the Indian Hills exit to Parmalee Gulch Road.

Follow Parmalee Gulch Road for approximately 2.5 miles to Picutis Road, turn right at Picutis, then follow the signs for Mt. Falcon to the upper parking area.

Mt. Falcon features a variety of habitats, so we can hope to see Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatch, Williamson's Sapsucker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Western Tanager, Townsend's Solitaire, and Western and Mountain Bluebird.

This will be a half-day trip, so lunch is optional. Bring water, snacks, and sun protection. **Call leader if you plan to go.**

Wednesday, July 24

Banner Lakes SWA

(Weld County)

Bruce Neuman and Mark Amershek

mamershek@msn.com

Please RSVP to Mark after July 21. **Group limit is 8.**

Meet leaders at 8 a.m. at the wildlife area for a half-day trip.

Directions: Take I-76 north; at the Hudson exit (exit 31), go four miles east on CO 52.

The main parking lot is on the left (north) just past CR 53 (DeLorme–31 D6). We will bird both the north and south sides of the area.

There are numerous small to medium sized ponds, many ringed with marshes, Russian olives, and junipers.

There is moderate on and off trail hiking of about two miles.

Bring water, hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Scopes would be helpful but not necessary.

Continued on next page

Field Trips

Continued from page 9

Potential for a hawk/owl search of the DIA loop in the afternoon.

Saturday, July 27 Castlewood Canyon State Park (Douglas County)

Mary Cay Burger, 303-771-3431

Meet leader at 7 a.m. at old entrance on CO 86, which is 0.5 miles west of Franktown.

Turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road and go two miles south to the park entrance, which requires a park pass or day pass.

Half-day birding, so lunch optional. Bring water. There are some steep trails.

Sunday, July 28 Lyons vicinity at 6000 feet NW of Lyons center (Boulder County)

Raymond Davis, 303-323-5332

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Park-n-Ride ½ block south of downtown Lyons on 4th St.

It's the middle of the summer and there aren't any good birds around!

That might be true, but we'll try to find something to look at.

Be prepared to sort through three species of hummingbirds, as well as the usual nesting birds.

We'll probably walk about two miles on flat ground, drive another 15 miles, and end up on my deck for your own lunch, looking at feeders and bird houses.

Trip should be wheelchair accessible (my house is).

—scheduled by Candice Johnson

Travel and Birding

Mary Cay Burger

Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival

Sierra Vista, Arizona

July 31–August 3

Enjoy Arizona's second spring. Scott Weidensaul is keynote speaker.

Field trips are small groups with celebrity leaders targeting endemics: Elegant Trogon, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Red-faced, Grace's, and Olive Warblers, 15 species of hummingbirds including White-eared, Lucifer, Berylline, and Plain-capped Starthroat.

Fifty free nature seminars. Website: <http://swwings.org>.

There are not a lot of birding festivals in July, but checking where the birding tour companies go is another way to find the best locations.

Half Moon Bay, California Shearwater Journeys

July 27–28

On a pelagic trip out of Half Moon Bay, you can see shearwaters and Albatross. Make your reservations as soon as possible at www.shearwater-journeys.com. More trips depart in August.

Pacific Northwest

During mid-July on the Olympic Peninsula and South Puget Sound you might see Pacific Wren, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Purple Finch.

In the Olympic Mountains you can try for Sooty Grouse and Varied Thrush. Take a ferry crossing and have a chance to see Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, Marbled Murrelet, as well as Harlequin Duck and Black Oystercatcher.

By mid-July the west-coast shorebirds have begun their return south

and you may see Black Turnstone, sandpipers, dowitchers, etc.

Alaska

This last destination is from my personal experience.

If you take a trip to Kenai Fjord National Park in Seward, Alaska, you can book an all-day wildlife boat tour. Tell the captain you are interested in birds.

Besides the Orca, seals, and sea lions, we got to see Horned and Tufted Puffins, Ancient Murrelet, a Common Murre nesting colony, plus gulls, kittiwakes, and cormorants.



Elegant Trogon from Mexico and Arizona. *Kay Niyo*



Black Oystercatcher can readily be seen in the Puget Sound area. *Kay Niyo*

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2014)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2014)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2013

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	303-287-1644
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
May	Jackie King	303-287-1644
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
August	Jackie King	303-287-1644
September	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	303-287-1644
December	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Grants

Chris Blakeslee chrisabla@aol.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Webmaster

Richard Holmes Anderson rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list www.cfobirds.org

Colorado Rare Bird Alert

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hlif, Dick Schottler 303-650-8750

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check www.dfobirders.org, Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303-659-8750), or COBirds.

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new and renewing members: Margaret Goodman, Denver; John Knowles, Denver; Kim Morss, Greenwood Village; Sue Summers, Littleton; John Taylor, Denver.

Thank you for the donation to the Research, Education, and Conservation Fund: John Taylor and the Estate of James B. Perry.

Upcoming Speakers

John Vanderpoel Aug. 26
“My Big Year”

Lynn Wickersham Sept. 23
“Report on Colorado Atlas II”

Brian Linkhart Oct. 28
“Flammulated Owl Research”

Susan Bonfield Nov. 25
“Engage Latinos Home
and Abroad in Birding”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 30 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

July Field Trips

Finding Reports on eBird

DFO Awards \$5000 in Grants



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/AUGUST 2013/VOL 49 NO 8

WWW.DFOBIRDERS.ORG

Field Trips

Saturday, August 3

Denver City Park

(Denver County)

Leader: Chuck Hundertmark,

303-604-0531

chundertmark8@gmail.com

Meet leader at 7 a.m. at parking strip southwest of 22nd Ave just north of Ferril Lake.

From Colorado Blvd, turn west onto 22nd Ave and go past the Museum of Nature and Science.

Turn left just before the zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand. Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake.

We'll look for recently fledged Double-crested Cormorants, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and Snowy Egrets at Ferril and Duck Lakes as well as other late nesters and early migrants.

An easy morning walk. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, scopes. Half-day trip. **Call or email leader if you plan to attend.**



Snowy Egret. Lee Farrell

Continued on page 2

New liability waiver well received

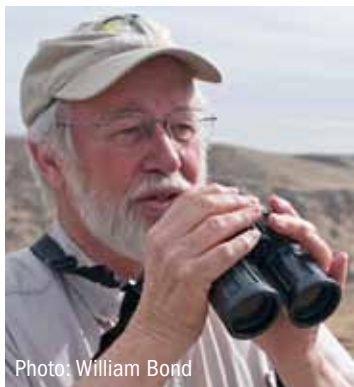


Photo: William Bond

From the President

Chuck Hundertmark

This June a new liability waiver was posted on the Denver Field Ornithologists' website for trip leaders to use on every DFO field trip.

Trip leaders were asked to begin using the waiver on July field trips, but some leaders began using it immediately for June trips.

Though the waiver is longer than members have been used to, early feedback from trip leaders indicates that trip participants have readily accepted the waiver.

Those of you who have shared your email address with DFO received advance notice of the revised waiver in an email announce-

ment. This provided members a chance to review the waiver before attending a field trip.

If you have not reviewed the waiver, I encourage you to do so before attending a field trip. That will give you a chance to ask any questions about it, and it will speed up the start of field trips by reducing the time taken for participants to read the waiver.

The new waiver was the outcome of much deliberation by the board. Discussions began after an incident when cars parked at a carpool site by trip participants were towed resulting in significant expense and hassle to the owners. This raised questions about the responsibilities of DFO, trip leaders, and trip participants.

Board members recognized that trip participants must take responsibility for their own safety and welfare on trips. At the same time, some were concerned about making the liability waiver too cumbersome.

The decision came to a head when DFO Director Ira Sanders represented DFO at a risk management seminar for nonprofit organizations. Ira made it clear to the board that a new waiver was needed. At the board's request, Ira arranged with an outside liability attorney to draft a suitable waiver.

After seeing the new waiver, one member commented that the waiver was reasonable, and suggested that there should also be standards for trip leaders. DFO does have guidelines for trip leaders, and these are posted on the DFO website.

The volunteers who schedule our monthly field trips generally remind leaders of the guidelines and urge that leaders review them. Nevertheless, the board recognized that more comprehensive guidelines are needed. For that reason, a Trip Leader Development Committee was established this spring.

Continued on page 2

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Saturday, August 10

Gregory Canyon

(Boulder County)

Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728

cell: 720-347-5169 (for use day of trip only)

Meet leader at I-70 and Ward Road Park-N-Ride at 6 a.m. or you can meet the group at Gregory Canyon at 7 a.m.

There is a fee per car and very limited parking at the trailhead so **please contact leader to arrange carpooling.**

The Gregory Canyon trail is steep and rocky with some loose gravel. This is a somewhat difficult walk.

Although we will walk slowly with frequent stops, persons concerned about limited agility or energy should discuss the trail conditions with the trip leader.

Depending on the group and the day, our round trip hike will be 2 miles maximum with elevation gain of 800 to 1,000 feet.

Gregory Canyon has riparian environment along the creek, and the sides of the canyon have ponderosa pine forest with shrubs on the dryer side and Douglas fir on the more moist side.

We should see several species because of the variety of environment. Some fledglings or immature birds may be seen.

One or two participants will carry a spotting scope that will be shared with the group but you are welcome to bring your own.

This is a half-day trip so lunch is optional but you will need drinking water and snacks. The leader will have lunch somewhere in Boulder; participants are invited.

Continued on page 4

Permit required for Prewitt and Jumbo

As Mark Amershek reported in the July issue of *The Lark Bunting*, Habitat Stamps are no longer required when you enter Colorado state wildlife areas (SWA) to bird.

For two of the most popular northeastern Colorado SWAs, however, an access permit is required.

Anyone ages 19–64 must purchase an annual Jumbo Reservoir/Prewitt Reservoir access permit to enter these SWAs unless they already have a valid Colorado annual hunting or fishing license.

Permits are \$36, valid April 1–March 31, and available anywhere you can purchase Colorado Parks and Wildlife hunting and fishing licenses.



Baird's Sandpiper. Lee Farrell

NEW LIABILITY WAIVER, continued from page 1

We know from a member survey last year that bird identification skills are important for any trip leader. But leaders also have administrative and safety responsibilities.

Moreover, leaders will meet the needs of participants better if they have people skills. Recent experience has also made it clear that leaders need to be prepared to handle a variety of possible emergencies.

This fall, we should begin to hear proposals from the Trip Leader Development Committee (Karen vonSaltza, Paul Slingsby, and Mark Amershek) for a Trip Leader Development program that will bring more consistency to DFO trips.

The program will be rolled out first to some of DFO's experienced trip leaders. After incorporation of suggestions from those leaders, we'll provide the program to other trip leaders. As a final step, we'll ask experienced leaders to mentor new trip leaders.

Colorado Birds of the Month: August

Ira Sanders

Editor's note: Back by popular demand! We begin republishing slightly revised monthly columns by Ira Sanders that were published in the 2009 *Lark Bunting* issues and praised by many members (www.dfobirders.org, *Lark Bunting*, Archives).

He has agreed to update as needed and reprint the valuable information again for the benefit of those who weren't members or didn't save their issues.

See <http://coloradocountybirding.com/> and click on "Find a Site" for birding locations. KN

The column is meant to give you an idea of what birds to look for in the current month and where to look for them.

I have enlisted the help of some well known birders around the state for their input and I hope this column is helpful.

In August, the average high in Denver is 86 degrees and the average low is 57 degrees, down 2 and 7 degrees, respectively, from July, although it has reached 101 and fallen to 41. It won't feel like it, but August is just a little cooler than July.

Severe weather is still a threat in August as thunderstorms persist everywhere in the state including on Long's Peak, where in 1984, a tornado touched down at 11,400 feet.

This was most likely the highest elevation tornado in U.S. history.

August is great time for Black Swifts at Ouzel Falls in Rocky Mt. National Park and the west side of Wolf Creek Pass.

At the pass, you may see the swifts from the overlook or at the falls area at the base of the pass.

In mid- to late-August start looking for fall warblers. You don't have to contend with the large flocks of Yellow-rumped Warblers yet so you don't have to pick through many birds in a big flock.

Barr Lake State Park is a good migrant trap in the fall. In 2006 and 2007, the area around the banding station was one spot in the state where Canada Warbler was found.

Keep your eyes open for this skulking rarity if you visit the banding station, just a short walk east of the Nature Center footbridge.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory does the banding and you can get bird-in-the-hand looks at many species. Banding is usually done by 11 a.m. so go early.

Barr Lake can also be a great place for migrating shorebirds if the water is low enough.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper shows up here every year if the conditions are right. Late August through mid-September is the time to look for Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

Beware of the buffy-looking Baird's Sandpipers. Read up on these two before heading into the field, as well as how to separate Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers.

Continued on page 4



Mountain Plover. Ira Sanders



Rufous Hummingbird. Ira Sanders

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Have appropriate hiking shoes and be prepared for a possible sprinkle or thunderstorm. It may be very cool at the trailhead at 7 a.m. You may like to have hiking sticks.

Leader will call participants to cancel in the event of rain.

Sunday, August 11
Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop
Karen vonSaltza
cell: 303-941-4881

Approximate 3-mile walk (half day) conducted on the second Sunday of each month to explore the wetlands area of Cherry Creek State Park.

Meet at the Prairie Loop at 8 a.m. The walk is on park trails but can become muddy and slippery during periods of inclement weather. Dress accordingly.

Carry water and snacks. Lunch is optional. Binoculars are recommended.

There is no charge or prior sign up required to join the monthly hike. A state park pass, either annual or daily, is required to enter the park.

Beginning birders are welcome; more experienced birders will help compile a monthly bird list including total species and individuals.

Tuesday, August 14
Treasure Hunt Trip
Joe Roller
jroller9@gmail.com

Meet at 5:30 a.m., Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 6060 North Broadway. Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

The leader will find the map to the buried treasures the night before, and we'll follow it,

Continued on next page

COLORADO BIRDS, continued from page 3

Crow Valley Campground on the Pawnee National Grasslands near Briggsdale is another very good migrant trap.

If you go to Prewitt Reservoir for shorebirds, check the inlet canal area at the west end of the reservoir for passerines. This is another spot where Canada Warbler was found just a couple of years ago.

Shorebirds can be found in the Lower Latham Reservoir area including Beebe Draw to the south of Lower Latham.

Prewitt Reservoir and Jackson Lake State Park can both be good for up to 20–25 species of shorebird. In the past, several hundred Mountain Plover have been seen gathering for migration in mid-August at the north side of Jackson Lake. Though you won't need a scope for the Mountain Plover, bring a scope for the mudflats or all you'll see are the large shorebirds.

As noted above, your success with shorebirds will be dependent on the water levels in the lakes and reservoirs. During drought years, shorebirding is very good, but if the mudflats aren't there, your chances of getting lots of shorebirds are slim.

Another place that seems to always draw shorebirds is John Martin Reservoir 25 miles west of Lamar. The size of the reservoir seems to guarantee mudflats and shorebirds. Bonny State Park north of Burlington can also be very good.

Wherever you may try, watch for White-rumped Sandpipers and remember that American Golden Plovers, Upland Sandpipers, and Long-billed Curlews aren't always in the mud but can be seen in short grass prairie.

The first week of August seems to be the high point of hummingbird migration on the Front Range. Broad-tailed, black-chinned, rufous, and calliope can all be found at feeders in the foothills and the nearby flatlands.

You will also notice that by early August the Bullock's Orioles will be mostly gone. They leave for the Southwest before departing for Central America for the winter. Also gone by the end of August are the Black-headed Grosbeaks and almost all the hummingbirds.

Clay-colored, Brewer's, and Chipping Sparrows are passing through in large numbers by mid- to late-August. Watch out for those juvenile "chip-pies" as they can be confusing, but young Clay-colored Sparrows are easier to ID in their immature plumage.

August offers the best opportunity to find White-tailed Ptarmigan because the young tend to be much more obvious. The Trail Ridge Road visitor's center and Guanella Pass can be good areas to try for these hard to find birds.

Dusky Grouse are also most easily found at this time of year for the same reason. Mount Falcon Open Space in Jefferson County can be a good place to try for these species.

I thank Joey Kellner, Norm Lewis, Bill Kaempfer, Karl Stecher, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, and Nathan Pieplow for their contributions to this month's column.

If you have suggestions for any months yet to come for anywhere in the state, please feel free to email them to me at zroadrunner14@gmail.com.

Easy identification of Colorado swallows

by Norm Lewis

There are two situations that will frequently inspire the “deer in the headlights” look on the faces of many birders—a mudflat covered with hundreds of shorebirds and a reservoir being buzzed by hundreds of swallows.

The usual question is, “Where the heck do I even start?!” If a person observing either of these situations attempts to do all the identifications at once (which is the first inclination of most of us), the result will probably be frustration.

However, I might be able to help with the swallows. A number of years ago I developed a simple system for identifying the common (that is to say, all of them except Purple Martin, which is an easy ID and not likely to be seen on most Colorado field trips anyway) swallows of Colorado in a quick systematic manner. Here’s how it works.

When confronted with hundreds of swooping, swirling swallows, first, don’t panic! This isn’t that hard. We’ll start by subdividing our six swallow species (Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Violet-green, Tree, Cliff, and Barn Swallows) into three pairs—the “brown” pair, the “blue-green” pair, and the “orange” (or buff) pair. The “brown” and “blue-green” refer to back color, while the “orange or buff” refers to the underside of the bird or the rump.

This is easily done by just picking out an individual swallow and deciding what its most prominent color might be. The brown pair are rough-winged and bank, the blue-green pair are violet-green and tree, and the orange pair consists of cliff and barn. We have now narrowed our identification choices for this bird from six down to two. One more step and we have a solid identification!

The easiest two to differentiate are the “orange” pair, cliff and barn. If it has a deeply forked (“swallowtail”) tail it’s a barn, and if it has a bright buffy rump patch; it’s a cliff. Piece of cake.

Continued on page 6



Figure 1. Violet-green Swallow. Note the large white area behind and above the eye. Lee Farrell



Figure 2. Tree Swallow. Note the dark “cap” all the way down to the eye. Kay Niyo

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

dig up some Doubloons, some shorebirds and early migrants in northeastern Colorado.

All day trip, returning to CPW by 5 or 6 p.m. Bring your pirate jokes, bins, water, lunch, etc.; leave your cutlasses at home.

If we get skunked, the leader will walk the plank. For urgent or last-minute matters, you may call Joe at 303-204-0828.

Saturday, August 17

Flying J Ranch

(Jeffco Open Space)

Lee Farrell, 303-932-7859

Limit 10 people, so contact leader at lee_farrell@comcast.net to register (**preregistration required**). Photographers encouraged.

Meet at 8 a.m. at central parking lot, end of the entry road.

Travel south from Evergreen on County Highway 73 for 6.8 miles to the main trailhead entry road.

Or from U.S. Highway 285 at Aspen Park, take Barkley Road to County Highway 73. Turn north and travel to the main trailhead entrance road (<http://jeffco.us/parks/parks-and-trails/flying-j-ranch-park/>).

Continued on next page



Williamson's Sapsucker male seen at Flying J Ranch OS in June 2013. Lee Farrell

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

A 3- to 4-hour hike. We'll look for species associated with lodgepole and open ponderosa pine forest. Approximately a 3.5-mile hike over maintained trails; some off-trail hiking.

Attendees should be comfortable hiking similar distances. Wear hiking boots; bring water and snacks.

Sunday, August 18

Roxborough State Park (Douglas County)

Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072

Meet leader at 7:30 a.m. at Roxborough Visitor Center.

To reach the park, take S Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield SP to Waterton Road on left.

Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd, turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles).

Trip will end around 11:30 a.m. so lunch is optional but bring plenty of water.

There is a nice place to enjoy lunch at the Visitor Center. State parks pass required.

Thursday, August 22

Rocky Mountain National Park Chris Owens

home: 303-772-6048

cell: 970-481-7271

e-mail: christiel@q.com

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the RMNP Visitor Center, east of Beaver Meadows entrance on U.S. Hwy 36.

Three-quarter day trip. Bring water, lunch, and clothes for changeable weather.

Either you need a parks pass, ride with someone who has one, or be prepared to pay an entry fee.

Continued on next page

Pelican puts squeeze on cormorant

by Bob Gobeille

On May 7 this year, I was photographing American White Pelicans at Glenmere Park in Greeley when one of the birds I took to be a male left its partner on a branch to swim about 20 feet from a cormorant.

Suddenly, with all the grace a pelican can muster, lifting its big feet out of the water and spreading its wings, the pelican flew toward the swimming cormorant.

Coming in with its landing gear down (Figure 1), the pelican tipped forward (Figure 2), turned its head sideways to encompass the cormorant's body (Figure 3), and put the squeeze on the cormorant with the avian version of the Heimlich maneuver.

The cormorant expelled its freshly caught fish (Figure 3), but lurched forward and recaptured it in midair (Figure 4) and ate it. The pelican was left with a bill of water and possibly a few black feathers.

The total time from takeoff to failed attack was 3 seconds! After such rudeness the male pelican swam around with the cormorant as though nothing had happened, probably waiting for another opportunity to steal lunch. The

Continued on page 7



Figure 1.
Pelican landing
near cormorant.
*Photos by Bob
Gobeille*

SWALLOWS, continued from page 5

The blue-green pair is just slightly tougher—if the bird has a whiter-looking face (an impression created by the large white area behind and above the eye) (Figure 1) and a prominent white rump patch, it's a violet-green. Yeah, I know, that's not really a rump patch; it's more of a lateral flank patch, but I find that in flight it looks like a rump patch and it's really obvious.

If the bird has a dark "cap" all the way down to the eye (Figure 2) and a much less prominent "rump" (again, actually flank) patch, it's a tree.

Finally, those brown rascals. I find this one to be the hardest of the three pairs, but it's really not that difficult. If the bird has a well-defined "necklace," it's a bank. If it appears to have only a "dirty" throat/upper breast area, it's a rough-winged. As an additional clue, if there are a number of swallows around, the bank will be the smallest with the most rapid wing beats.

And that's all there is to it! Just get the bird into one of the pairs, and then use a few easy clues to decide which of the two it is. Good luck with the swallows (and the shorebirds, but that is a considerably different story!), and enjoy the Colorado swallows!

PELICAN, *continued* from page 6

pelican was swimming so close (Figure 5) that it appeared to practically touch the cormorant at times, just waiting for the next meal to be chased up in the water where it could be grabbed.

Stealing prey by white pelicans, known as kleptoparasitism, is common in flocks containing Double-crested Cormorants. They also rob prey from gulls and other pelicans with success rates ranging from 25 to 50% according to *The Birds of North America Online*.



Figure 2.
Pelican leaned forward toward cormorant.



Figure 3.
Pelican turned head sideways to cause cormorant to expel fish.



Figure 4.
Cormorant recaptures fish.



Figure 5.
Pelican looking for a second free meal.

Field Trips

Continued from page 6

We will carpool from the Visitors Center so you will likely find someone with whom to ride if you do not have a pass.

We will start with a hike of about two miles at Upper Beaver Meadows. We will walk a bit more at a couple of other places.

You must register with the leader. Limited to 15 participants.

**Saturday, August 24
Barr Lake State Park
(Adams County)
Ira and Tammy Sanders
303-278-7172**

Meet the leaders at 7 a.m. at the Barr Lake Nature Center.

Barr Lake State Park requires a state park pass or one-day park pass.

We end at noon so lunch is optional. For those who bring lunch, we will eat on the benches close to the bridge near the Nature Center.

There may be lingering breeding birds as well as early migrants, particularly shorebirds.

**Sunday, August 25
Northeastern Colorado
Prewitt and Jackson Reservoirs
Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748**

Meet leader at 5:30 a.m. at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 6060 N Broadway.

Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

State parks pass and Jumbo Res/Prewitt Res access permit required.

This is an all-day trip so bring lunch and plenty of water and bug spray. **Call leader if going.**

Continued on next page

Field Trips

Continued from page 7

Saturday, August 31

**Lair o' the Bear Park
(Jefferson County)**

Niña Routh, 303-987-8687

Lair o' the Bear is located west of Morrison, CO, about halfway between Idledale and Kittredge.

Meet at 8 a.m. at far west end of Lair o' the Bear parking lot.

Bear Creek runs through the park surrounded by mountain meadows and forested hillsides. Approximately 2.5-mile hike to see what is around at the end of the summer.

Please RSVP to leader. Limited group size; preregistered participants only.

Bird until about noon and for those who want, lunch at Bear Creek Restaurant in Kittredge with views of the hummingbird feeders.

**—Scheduled by
Chuck Hundertmark
for Jackie King**



Cordilleran Flycatcher seen at Lair o' the Bear in June 2013. Lee Farrell

Travel and Birding

Mary Cay Burger

**Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival
Tucson, Arizona**

August 14–18

<http://tucsonaudubon.org/>

Depending on the onset of the “summer monsoons” (rainstorms at end of July) in Arizona some birds start a second breeding season.

Botteri's, Cassin's, and Rufous-winged Sparrows are vocal and visible at this time.

Hummingbird activity increases so you can find up to 14 species of hummers in southeastern Arizona.

Join the fun at the third annual festival and get to know the friendly local birding and conservation community and the dazzling array of watchable wildlife experiences.

Please contact Tucson Audubon Society at 520-629-0150 because online registration is now closed.

Pelagic Birding

If you want to see seabirds you need to get out on the water in a boat away from shore.

There are lots of possibilities in August on both the west and east coasts.

For Oregon pelagic trips, check out www.thebirdguide.com/pelagics.

Prices can run from \$125–\$250 per person per day depending on the distance the boat must travel to get to the birds.

For Cape Hatteras, NC pelagic trips with Brian Patteson, check www.patteson.com.

For example, a trip on **August 9, 10, or 11** from 5:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. is \$160 per person per day from the Hatteras Landing Marina, 58848 Marina Way, Hatteras, North Carolina 27943, 252-986-1363.



Figure 1. Bendire's Thrasher can be seen in SE Arizona. Kay Niyo

**Oregon Shorebird Festival
Charleston, Oregon**

August 23–25

www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/shorebirdfestival.htm

The 27th festival will include a full weekend of activities planned for birders of all skill levels.

The festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, Oregon.

Activities include expertly guided land-based field trips to Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, New River, and the Coos Bay area.

There is a pelagic trip on Saturday for those who want to experience birding on the water.

This is a smaller festival. You can even reserve a bunk in the dormitory to save on lodging.

Regardless of where you are going this August, be sure to check www.birdingonthe.net and look for links to the location you are interested in.

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2014)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2014)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2013

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	303-287-1644
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
May	Jackie King	303-287-1644
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
August	Jackie King	303-287-1644
September	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	303-287-1644
December	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Grants

Chris Blakeslee chrisabla@aol.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Webmaster

Richard Holmes Anderson rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list www.cfbirds.org

Colorado Rare Bird Alert

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hlif, Dick Schottler 303-650-8750

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check www.dfobirders.org, Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303-659-8750), or COBirds.

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new members:

Michelle Verostko, Westminster; Rob and Kris King, Longmont

Upcoming Speakers

John Vanderpoel Aug. 26
“My Big Year”

Details in September issue

Lynn Wickersham Sept. 23
“Report on Colorado Atlas II”

Brian Linkhart Oct. 28
“Flammulated Owl Research”

Susan Bonfield Nov. 25
“Engage Latinos Home
and Abroad in Birding”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 30 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting
Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742
Featured This Month
Colorado Birds of August
Swallow Identification
Pelican vs. Cormorant



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/SEPTEMBER 2013/VOL 49 NO 9

WWW.DFOBIRDERS.ORG

Field Trips

Saturday, September 7 Eastern Plains Migrants

**Leader: Norm Lewis,
aerieadventures@aol.com**

Meet leader at 7 a.m. at the Park-n-Ride at 70th and Broadway. Plan to carpool.

Jackson Reservoir in September can be one of the most outstanding shorebirding sites in Colorado. We will visit the State Park (fee) and State Wildlife Area looking for a wide variety of shorebirds and fall migrant songbirds.

Full-day trip. Bring lunch, water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent if you need it, and a scope if you have one.

Sunday, September 8 Chavez Trail and Beaver Brook Braille Trail

**Leader: Paul Slingsby,
303-422-3728, paslingsby@comcast.net**

This will be a half-day trip. Meet at the lower end of the Stegosaurus Park-n-Ride at 6:45 a.m.

We will carpool from there, leaving at 7 sharp.

From I-70, exit 259, turn left onto CO 26; drive under I-70 and look for the Park-n-Ride on your left. We will carpool 6 miles to the trailhead.

This will be a slow walk of about 3 miles on smooth but steep Denver Mountain Parks trails with some short unmaintained paths.

Continued on page 2

Full chase mode: My 2011 Big Year with John Vanderpoel



John Vanderpoel. Scott Vanderpoel



John Vanderpoel birding at Santa Barbara, CA.
Linda Vanderpoel

In 2011 Colorado video producer and birder John Vanderpoel set off to attempt a North American Big Year. His whirlwind adventure took him to the edges of the continent.

Vanderpoel will share his year-long adventure with us at the August 26 meeting of the Denver Field Ornithologists.

John is the creator and producer of the critically acclaimed identification videos, the *Advanced Birding Video Series with Jon Dunn*. He lives in Niwot, Colorado with his wife, Linda.

In September of 1966, a cold front grounded dozens of warblers on his family's property in Barrington, Illinois. John, a teenager, was captivated by the warblers hopping all around him. He's been birding ever since. He has traveled extensively throughout the

United States and Mexico both birding and filming for the video series.

During his big year, he sailed the high seas with the Admiral of the Atlantic, the Queen Bee of the Western Sea, and a modern day mystic. He raced ATVs over the stones of St. Lawrence Island with the Czar and up a snow covered pass on Adak Island in the middle of December with a frontier man. More North American birds in one year than in his entire life and scores of interesting people awaited John. He wasn't searching for the meaning of life—he was too busy living it for three hundred and sixty-five incredible days.

John's presentation will include selected stories from his Big Year, some humorous, some informative, and all interesting. **See page 9 for time and location.**

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

We will visit an aspen forest and some ponderosa/Douglas fir forest with a small spring-fed creek.

Many mountain species will still be present and some (e.g., Townsend's Solitaires) may have gathered in numbers.

Aspen may have begun to change into their fall colors.

September 14–15

Fall Bird Counts

Refer to the adjacent schedule.

Thursday, September 19

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Chris Owens, home 303-72-6048, cell 970-481-7271, christiel@q.com

Please register with the leader if you plan to participate.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot of the Beaver Meadows entrance station.

We will carpool from there but be prepared to purchase a National Parks Pass.

This trip will be mostly on foot through riparian areas for about 2 miles total.

We will also explore Endo valley and other areas as time permits.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet. *Alistair Montgomery*

Continued on next page

Fall Bird Count—more eyes, more birds

Denver has conducted Fall Bird Counts for more than 30 years. Denver Field Ornithologists and Audubon Society of Greater Denver sponsor this tradition.

No fees, but some sites require a state parks pass or preregistration. Bring binoculars, scopes for the reservoir counts, field guide, and lunch. Everyone welcome to help—more eyes see more birds.

Saturday, September 14

Barr Lake periphery. This trip, mostly driving, does not involve much walking and will be good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

Leader: Dick Anderson, 303-757-4582

Phone leader, or email at rholsanderson@earthlink.net

Meet at 7 a.m. at Barr Lake Entrance Station.

Chatfield State Park

Leader, Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park.

State Parks pass required.

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Cheryl Teuton and Dan Brooks, 303-912-3341

Meet at 8 a.m. at Marina, inside west gate near Cherry Creek High School.

State Parks pass required.

Waterton, downstream, 4–5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed.

Leader: Hugh and Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Audubon Nature Center (left turn immediately after turning onto Waterton/Roxborough road and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon).

Lower Bear Creek and Marston Reservoir

Leader: Chuck Aid, 303-674-3331, caid@ecentral.com



Juvenile Cooper's Hawk. *Kay Niyo*

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at parking lot adjacent to the Conoco Station at the NE corner of Morrison Road and C470. We will bird Bear Creek Lake Park and the Bear Creek Greenbelt in the morning and Marston Reservoir in the afternoon.

Sunday, September 15

Barr Lake State Park

Lots of walking—at least five miles—on all sides of the lake, including the banding station.

Leader: Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035

Call leader if you plan to go. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at RMB0, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane. South off Bromley Lane; from I-76, first road east of railroad track.

State Parks pass required.

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Kirk Huffstater, 303-660-9298

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Homestead. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance; Homestead is first parking lot on the left.

State Parks pass required.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-641-8823

Call leader to sign up; spaces available.

Documenting the human-cormorant conflict

A review by Chuck Hundertmark

The Double-crested Cormorant is among a handful of North American birds that generate significant conflict between those who value the bird and those who would happily see it become extinct. Author Dennis Wild has done a balanced job of telling the story of this conflict as it has emerged in contemporary North America.

Wild begins by narrating the illegal slaughter of nearly 1,000 cormorants on Little Galloo Island in Lake Ontario in 1998. The incident was the climax of growing discontent among fishing boat captains in New York's Henderson Harbor over declining catches in the local sport fishery.

A zoologist by education, Wild gives a detailed account of the taxonomy and evolution of the cormorant, including the gular pouch and totipalmate feet that lead to its classification in the order pelicaniformes. The gular pouch, he notes, is used in courtship displays, to carry fish, and as an evaporative cooling mechanism by a fluttering action.

During the DDT era, the Double-

crested Cormorant was among the avian predators suffering major collapses in population due to thinning of egg shells and deformation of the few young that hatched. Wild gives a clear history of the effects of the insecticide DDT, and the gradual recovery of impacted species after the pesticide was banned in 1973. The recovery of the cormorants in the Great Lakes coincided with a variety of changes in the fish ecology of the lakes largely induced by human activities including overfishing.

Ultimately, conflicts between the interests of fishing communities around the Great Lakes and commercial fish farmers in the south led to the issuance of two depredation orders by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The first order covers the Great Lakes region and the second covers the southern states hosting commercial fish farms. The orders allow the control of Double-crested Cormorant populations through culling or oiling of eggs.

While I would quibble over the use of "symbol" in the title ("exemplar" might be more accurate), Wild's work

is an excellent read for anyone who loves cormorants or is interested in how conflicts between human interests and the welfare of birds are managed. While Colorado does not have the scale of cormorant populations found in the Great Lakes region, there are parts of the state where similar conflicts have arisen between American White Pelicans and local sport fishing interests.

The Double-Crested Cormorant: Symbol of Ecological Conflict

Dennis Wild

The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 2012



Double-crested Cormorant swallows large trout. Bob Gobeille

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Expect woodpeckers, bluebirds, some late warblers, finches, sparrows, etc. Trip will wrap up at about 2:30 p.m.

Bring water, lunch, and all the usual protection for sun and variable weather.



Western Sandpiper. Kay Niyo

Saturday, September 21
Rocky Mountain Arsenal
Leader: Dave Rhoades,
303-424-8633

This is a **space-limited trip; you must register with the leader in advance.**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Arsenal Visitors Center; contact leader for directions. Bird until 1 p.m. Lunch optional.

Expect fall migrants, early waterfowl, and raptors.

Saturday, September 21
Barr Lake State Park
Leaders: Tammy and Ira
Sanders, 303-278-7172

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Stone House at the end of Lark Bunting Lane.

Bird until noon. Lunch optional.

This will be easy walking on established trails. State Parks Pass required.

This popular site can always turn up some surprises at any time of year.

Continued on page 5

Colorado Birds of the Month: September

Ira Sanders

Editor's note: Back by popular demand! We are republishing slightly revised monthly columns by Ira Sanders that were published in the 2009 *Lark Bunting* issues and praised by many members (www.dfobirders.org, *Lark Bunting*, Archives).

He has agreed to update as needed and reprint the valuable information again for the benefit of those who weren't members or didn't save their issues.

See <http://coloradocountybirding.com/> and click on "Find a Site" for birding locations. KN

The column is meant to give you an idea of what birds to look for in the current month and where to look for them. I have enlisted the help of some well known birders around the state for their input and I hope this column is helpful.

In September, the average high in Denver is 77 degrees and the average low is 48 degrees, down 9 degrees on the high and low from August, although it has reached 97 and has fallen to 17.

September has very changeable weather as illustrated by the September 17, 1971 snowstorm that dumped more than two feet of snow on the Front Range foothills. I remember that storm as I had just arrived at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins as a sophomore and all

the kids from California who had never seen snow were going crazy making snow angels. The temperature had dropped nearly 60 degrees in 48 hours. In contrast, Eads reported 107 degrees in 1947.

Populus tremuloides, quaking aspen, will be in their peak colors in the high country by the fourth weekend of the month and elk have started their reveille in September. Elk bugling reaches its peak about the same time as the aspen's palate of color does in late September and early October.

Fall migration really starts to pick up with Labor Day weekend. This seems to be the best time to look for Canada Warbler in places like Prewitt Reservoir SWA and Barr Lake State Park. Last decade, Canada Warbler was seen three years in a row at Barr Lake (near the banding station) around Labor Day.

You should also look low for rare warblers like Mourning and Connecticut Warblers later in the month in wetter areas. Sparrow, warbler, and other songbird migrations increase in numbers in September although you will notice that the orioles and grosbeaks are gone.

Cassin's Kingbirds can be coming through in numbers in the first couple of weeks of September. I've seen flights

Continued on page 5



Cassin's Kingbird carrying food. Ira Sanders



Fox Sparrow. Ira Sanders

of them, 15 to 20 at a time, at Barr Lake during this time period. Raptor migration starts picking up late in the month.

Additionally, as indicated by the report of Cave Swallow at Prewitt Reservoir in July 2013, keep your eyes open for this rarity especially after all the Cliff Swallows have left. Cave Swallows seem to be able to stay later and still survive. The first state record for Illinois was found last November in some numbers although Hurricane Sandy had something to do with it. But it does show that Cave Swallows are very hardy, so any swallow you see late in the fall deserves greater attention.

Check for migrants the morning after an Arctic front moves through. Large numbers of birds sometimes pass through on the heels of these Arctic fronts. The Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Crow Valley Campground in Weld County, Valco Ponds in Pueblo, Belmar Park in Lakewood, and Barr Lake State Park can be good migrant traps in fall migration. The banding stations at Barr Lake and Chico Basin usually turn up a few good birds.

If you can find the right habitat, September can still be a good month for shorebirds. Finding good shorebird habitat shouldn't be too hard this year as water levels are down in some places. Check Prewitt SWA as it is already hosting shorebirds and Lake Jackson State Park if the water is low enough for mudflats. But don't forget about the other shorebird habitats I mentioned in the August column like Lower Latham Reservoir, Loloff Reservoir, Beebe Draw, and Barr Lake.

Terns start coming through in numbers so remember to watch for Arctic Tern mixed in with the Forster's and Commons. In early October 2000, there were Arctic Terns at Chatfield Reservoir.

I thank Norm Lewis and Karl Stecher for their contributions to this month's column. If you have suggestions for any months yet to come for anywhere in the state, please feel free to email them to me at zroadrunner14@gmail.com.

The Lark Bunting archives on website

In late June Dick Anderson, DFO webmaster, received disks with all the copies of *The Lark Bunting* from its initial publication in October 1965 to date. The disks were prepared by Kristine Haglund, Archivist and Chair, Bailey Library and Archives at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The library is the repository of the DFO archives. Dick placed the archived and 2013 newsletters on the DFO website, www.dfobirders.org.

The early issues were simply titled *Monthly Report of Field Observations of the Denver Field Ornithologists*. The reports included an announcement of the monthly meeting and topic, but the principal focus was on the species counts of the monthly field trips.

In the December 1971 issue, "The Lark Bunting" appeared as the header over "Monthly Report" with the Lark Bunting logo to the left on the masthead. Over the years, the publication changed from simple reporting of field trip observations to a newsletter offered in full color by email and covering the activities and programs of the organization. In 1999, DFO developed a presence on the web. Dick Anderson is the current webmaster.

Field Trips

Continued from page 3



Black-necked Stilt. *Alistair Montgomery*

Sunday, September 22

Lair o' the Bear

**Leader: Lois Levinson,
303-908-3403**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot. Half-day trip, lunch optional.

Foothills species, late migrant passerines, and raptors possible. Bring water, snacks, dress for weather.

Saturday, September 28

Eastern Boulder County

**Leader: Mike Serruto,
720-581-2711**

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot at Walden Ponds west of Arapahoe on 75th.

We will explore the ponds, creeks, and riparian areas around Walden and Sawhill for resident and migrant water birds and passerines.

From there we will carpool to other areas of interest looking for raptors and the inevitable surprise or two.

We will bird until about 3 p.m. Bring lunch, water, and dress for conditions.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird taps sapsucker wells in birch tree

by Chris A. Blakeslee

Our Broad-tailed Hummingbird is such a familiar harbinger of warmer weather, that each spring we eagerly await its return to the mountains of Colorado. Who doesn't smile on sighting their first hummingbird in early May!

Hummingbirds obtain the energy they need to live and reproduce from a variety of sources such as flower blossoms, insects and arachnids, and stealing food from other animals. The latter source includes one activity rarely observed: raiding sapsucker sap wells.

A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird was photographed hovering and feeding at a Red-naped Sapsucker's sap wells in mid-July of this year (Figure 1).

The wells in the photo were excavated in a native Colorado river birch (*Betula occidentalis*) in a riparian area called Willowbrook on a private ranch near Bailey at 8,200 ft. The south hillside is covered with Colorado blue spruce and Douglas fir, and the north hillside, with scattered mature ponderosa pine. More than 30 species of birds (and many mammals including mice and squirrels) have been observed taking advantage of sapsucker wells.

Sapsuckers peck holes through the bark of a woody plant and into the cambium layer. This behavior has been documented in more than 200 tree and shrub species in North America. Sapsuckers usually make their wells in young trees at eye level or below (Elbroch and Marks 2001). The pecking causes the sap cells to secrete fluids to heal the tree injury. The sapsucker, with its brush-tipped, short (for a woodpecker) tongue, can then feed on the sap to



Figure 1. Broad-tailed Hummingbird female feeding at sapsucker's sap wells. Chris A. Blakeslee

obtain nutrients and insects that are trapped in the sap wells.

Williamson's Sapsuckers create sap wells too, but there is no distinguishing pattern to the wells that allows identifying which sapsucker created them. If searching the forest for active sap wells, remember that mammals such as squirrels and elk strip bark in the winter while sapsuckers drill their wells only in the summer (Elbroch and Marks 2001).

With their specially adapted bills and long tongues, hummingbirds can harvest flower nectar containing proteins and carbohydrates. Nectar can make up as much as 73% of their daily diet by body weight. Calorie needs may range from 6,000 to 12,000 calories per day depending on the species and their daily activity cycles. According to research, it may take between 500 and 1,000 flower blossoms per day to provide the daily needs of one hummingbird (Long 1997).

They also consume insects and arachnids on the flowers or leaves and catch insects in flight to obtain additional lipids, proteins, and salts. Some studies have shown that a

hummingbird's diet consists of as much as 27% (by body weight) arthropods including flies, mosquitoes, aphids, gnats, leafhoppers, ants, and spiders (Long 1997).

Interestingly, Bernd Heinrich (2009) points out that in the thick coniferous forests of northern New England and Canada the eastern-

ranging Ruby-throated Hummingbird thrives in an area devoid of red, tubular-shaped flowers with which hummingbirds coevolved. Heinrich states, "For many years I thought that the [Ruby-throated] Hummingbirds I had seen in the northern Maine spruce fir wood in May must have returned much too early by mistake. Later I learned they were right on schedule, their timing [males first, then females] is synchronized with the return of the... Yellow-bellied Sapsucker...which is their main food provider then, and all summer long." Isn't nature fascinating!

LITERATURE CITED

- Elbroch, Mark and Eleanor Marks. 2001. *Bird Tracks & Sign: A Guide to North American Species*. Pp. 252-256. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA.
- Heinrich, Bernd. 2009. *The Summer World: A Season of Bounty*. Ch. 14. Harper Collins, NY.
- Long, Kim. 1997. *Hummingbirds: A Wildlife Handbook* (Johnson Nature Series). Johnson Books, Boulder, CO.

Fall offerings at Denver Museum of Nature and Science

DMNS Archives Film: Hawaiian Album

Tuesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.
Ricketson Auditorium
\$8 member, \$10 nonmember
Tickets: 303-370-6000 or
www.dmns.org/afterhours

See Hawaii and its natural splendor through the eyes of former Museum director Dr. Alfred M. Bailey.

In 1961, he spoke live to the audience with the silent film, "Hawaiian Album," projected on screen.

The Image Archives Department has recreated the moment with the help of Cinema Lab by taking Bailey's film and audio to produce a digital motion picture.

The film covers Bailey's travels through the Hawaiian Chain, with a particular focus on birds.

This special premiere will be hosted by René Payne, Museum image archivist, and Robert David of Cinema Lab, as they discuss film preservation and the digitization process.

The DFO provided funding for this project.

DMNS/RMBO Series: The Feat of Bird Migration

Thursdays, September 12–26,
6:30–8:30 p.m.
Field trip: Saturday, September 21,
8–10 a.m.
\$75 member, \$105 nonmember
Registration opens July 31,
303-370-6000

Discover the wonder and science of bird migration in this unique four-part course offered in partnership with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO).

Learn about how, why, and where birds migrate during an immersive presentation in the Planetarium,



Fish Crow, St. Petersburg, FL. Kay Niyo

study specimens in the Denver Museum's ornithology collections, and visit a banding station.

Scientists from the Museum and RMBO will discuss the latest research on Colorado's grassland birds and the Dunlin, which migrates from Southeast Asia to the tundra of northern Alaska to breed, and how science leads to conservation.

Ornithology Lecture Series

This series is presented by the DMNS and the RMBO. Tickets available beginning August 12. Call reservations at 303-370-6000 or visit www.dmns.org/afterhours.

Save the Last Dance: A Story of North American Grassland Grouse

Thursday, October 3, 7 p.m.
Phipps IMAX Theater
\$12 member, \$15 nonmember
Book sale and signing

The dances of North American grassland grouse are known as one of the most impressive wildlife displays in North America. Award-winning photographer Noppadol Paothong will share the stories behind the photos in his new book *Save the Last Dance: A Story of North*

American Grassland Grouse, which beautifully captures grassland grouse and their fragile habitat.

Following the program, enjoy coffee and cookies at a book signing reception.

Get to Know the Crow

Tuesday, October 22, 7 p.m.
Ricketson Auditorium
\$8 member, \$10 nonmember
Book sale and signing

Crows possess traits that humans may find strangely familiar. They gather around their dead, recognize people, murder other crows, drink beer, sled for play, and work in tandem to get spray cheese out of a can.

John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington, will share funny, awe-inspiring, and poignant stories about the intelligence and unexpected abilities of crows.

He is the author of the book *Gifts of the Crow*, and his research has been featured on the television show *Nature* and in the documentary *A Murder of Crows*.

Living Dinosaurs

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.
Ricketson Auditorium
\$8 member, \$12 nonmember

You often hear that birds are living dinosaurs. Where do birds fit into the tree of life, and what do we know about their deep history?

Julia Clarke will present recent research and discoveries scientists are using to paint a vibrant new picture of dinosaurs and the origin of birds.

Clarke is associate professor and John A. Wilson Fellow in vertebrate paleontology at the University of Texas at Austin.

Travel and Birding

Mary Cay Burger

Yampa Valley Crane Festival
Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, Inc.
Steamboat Springs/Hayden, CO
September 6–9
<http://coloradocranes.org>

Here is a bird festival close to home that is fun for birders and children. Many of the activities are free and open to the public. Some require preregistration due to limited numbers or a fee.

Maybe you would like a free gondola ride to the top of the Steamboat Ski area and a walk to see high-elevation birds, or a picnic at The Nature Conservancy's Carpenter Ranch with sunset Sandhill Crane viewing. Another day, take a pontoon boat birding tour.

Four days of events including daily crane viewings, nature and bird walks, expert speakers, films, a month-long art show, workshops, children's and family activities, and more. Internationally renowned nature and crane photographer, Michael Forsberg, will be the keynote speaker. Contact Person: Nancy Merrill, 970-846-5556.

Monterey Bay Birding Festival
Watsonville, CA
September 12–15
<http://montereybaybirding.org/>

Welcome to the ninth annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival, home of one of the most spectacular birding and wildlife venues in North America.

From soaring Golden Eagles to California Condors, cheeky Bushtits to Townsend's Warblers, Snowy Plovers to flocks of Sooty Shearwaters, few places can match the diversity of habitats as Monterey Bay. Registration must be done by September 1st. Contact Person: Dave Brockmann, 831-726-8052.

Cape Cod Bird Festival
Cape Codder Resort and Spa
Hyannis, MA
September 13–15
<http://capecodbirdclub.org/>

Come explore during our fall migration and marvel at the distinctive flavor that is "Cape Cod." Keynote speaker is the entertaining and distinguished author and bird expert, Pete Dunne. Other distinctive features include field trips, workshops, a pelagic trip, vendor marketplace, family day, and more. Contact Person: Diane Silverstein, 508-364-7050.



Greater Sandhill Crane parents with two colts. Kay Niyo



Florida Scrub-Jay, Lake Kissimmee area, FL. Kay Niyo

Lake County Wings and Wildflowers Festival
Tavares, FL
October 4–6
<http://wingsandwildflowers.com>

A three-day festival celebrating the diversity of local birds, wildlife, and natural areas. All ages will enjoy exhibits, workshops, and presentations by experts on birding, wildflowers, and more. Numerous expert-led expeditions in area preserves and pristine public lands to view birds and wildlife including the Florida Scrub-Jay. Keynote speakers are James Currie, Jeffrey A. Gordon, and Walter Taylor. Contact Person: Debi Dyer, 352-743-3924.

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2014)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2014)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2013

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	303-287-1644
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
May	Jackie King	303-287-1644
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
August	Jackie King	303-287-1644
September	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	303-287-1644
December	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Grants

Chris Blakeslee chrisabla@aol.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Webmaster

Richard Holmes Anderson rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list www.cfbirds.org

Colorado Rare Bird Alert

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hlif, Dick Schottler 303-650-8750

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check www.dfobirders.org, Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303-659-8750), or COBirds.

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new members:

Neil Reinecke, Denver; Natalie Vande Vuss, Littleton

Upcoming Speakers

John Vanderpoel Aug. 26
"My Big Year"

See details on page 1

Lynn Wickersham Sept. 23
"Report on Colorado Atlas II"

Brian Linkhart Oct. 28
"Flammulated Owl Research"

Susan Bonfield Nov. 25
"Engage Latinos Home
and Abroad in Birding"

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 30 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ | 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ | _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

Vanderpoel's Big Year

Colorado Birds of September

Remember Fall Bird Count



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/OCTOBER 2013/VOL 49 NO 10

WWW.DFOBIRDERS.ORG

Field Trips

Saturday, October 5
Fowler and North Spring
Brook trails
South of Boulder
Leader: Paula Hansley,
720-890-2628

Meet leader at the NE corner of the intersection of Highways 93 and 170 at 7:30 a.m.

Carpool three miles west to the trailhead where parking is limited.

This lovely 2-mile walk will take the group through many habitats—meadows, ponderosa pine forest, brushy gullies, and riparian areas—with spectacular views of the Flatirons.

In a burn area, we will look for many species of nuthatches and woodpeckers, including red-headed and three-toed.

When on the Goshawk Ridge Trail, we will be in a pristine Habitat Conservation Easement area.

Bring plenty of water, snacks, and lunch. Trip will last through early afternoon. Please call leader with any questions.

Sunday, October 6
Barr Lake State Park
Leader: Gregg Goodrich,
303-655-9135

Meet leader at Barr Lake Visitors' Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring scopes, binoculars, water, and dress for the predicted weather.

Walk between 3 and 4 miles looking for late migrants, waterfowl, and resident birds preparing for winter.

Lunch is optional. State parks

Continued on page 2

Atlas II report by Lynn Wickersham

DFO welcomes Lynn Wickersham, Director of the Colorado Atlas II, to our Monday, September 23 meeting. Lynn will present a report (and celebration) of the seven-year statewide Atlas II project to census all the breeding bird species of Colorado and pinpoint their breeding locations.

Lynn will come all the way from Durango to speak to us and we anticipate a good turn-out. Come and see what “we” have done!

Atlas II was an overwhelming task that required the participation of hundreds of volunteer birders, including many members of the DFO. In this presentation, Lynn will

share the preliminary analyses on over 200,000 atlas observations collected over more than 46,000 person hours, comparing the effort and results from Atlas II with the first Atlas.

Highlights of the presentation will include a list of new breeders for the state of Colorado as well as distribution and “change” maps for species that seem to have experienced changes in their distribution over the past 20 years.

The meeting is in the usual place, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium.

Enter through the west door by 7:30 p.m. We must lock the door a little after that time.



Male Northern Flicker, Las Animas Co. Lynn Wickersham



White-crowned Sparrow nest with eggs, Eagle Co. Lynn Wickersham

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

pass required. Call only if you have questions.



Swainson's Hawk caught a rabbit in south central Denver and now will be seen migrating south. *Bill Eden*

Saturday, October 12

Brett Gray Ranch, Lincoln County

Coleaders: Mark Amershek, 303-329-8646, and Bruce Neuman

Trip length: 5:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Trip will be **limited to 8 (eight) persons.**

RSVP Mark at 303-329-8646 or mamershek@msn.com between October 6th and 10th.

Meet and carpool at 5:45 a.m. at the King Soopers parking lot on Fountain Parkway (just east of I-25) in Castle Rock. Carpools will leave at 6:00 a.m. sharp.

We will need volunteers to drive (high clearance, 4-wheel-drive vehicles), so let Mark know if you could drive.

Brett Gray is a 49,000-acre Nature Conservancy working ranch in Lincoln County (southeast of Colorado Springs).

The driving distance from Castle Rock will be approximately 100 miles (a little over two hours).

The ranch will be birded by driving ranch roads with stops to bird on level open areas (ponds,

Continued on next page

DFO Conservation: For the Love of Birds

Meredith McBurney

Helping preserve what we love

About 18 months ago, the DFO Board held a planning retreat at Cherokee Ranch. We started (of course) by taking a hike to look at birds. We then opened the formal retreat with a discussion about what each of us got out of birding.

The comments were a collage of experiences that bring us joy—experiencing beauty, having fun, connecting with people, pursuing a passion, watching amazing creatures, being intellectually stimulated.

We are an organization of people who have come together because we share a love of birds.

We then reviewed DFO's purpose: "... to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats and to support local and national movements for bird and habitat protection...."

It occurred to us that DFO indirectly participates in the preservation of birds in many ways: speakers at our monthly meetings often include something about conservation, many field trip leaders talk about the conservation of habitat being visited or species seen, our grants frequently are aimed at conservation.

But we want to be more intentional about living up to our purpose of "preserving birds and their habitats."

Toward that end, the board created the position of Conservation Director. My goal as the first Conservation Director is to figure out the best ways to integrate conservation of birds and their habitats more fully into our many activities and communications.

One activity will be to ensure there is an article on conservation in each *Lark Bunting*. And what better (or

worse) way to kick this off than with an update on the proposed **Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation**, which, if implemented, will have a huge negative impact on the preservation of birds and their habitat in one of Metro Denver's most popular birding locations.

The Army Corps of Engineers released its Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on August 1.

The EIS supports the original plan proposed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the entity representing the water providers.

The public was given 30 days to review and comment on this 3,200 page document; any final comments were due by September 3.

The DFO Board joined the Audubon Society of Greater Denver (ASGD) and others in requesting a 60-day extension of the comment period and sent a letter to that effect, but these requests were denied.

Information provided by ASGD tells us that the alternative selected by the Corps of Engineers will destroy approximately 700 acres of forest, wetlands, ponds, and grasslands, including prime birding habitat, in exchange for a relatively small, highly unreliable additional water supply.

You can find an ASGD Fact Sheet with more information on our website at www.dfobirders.org. There is also information at www.savechatfield.org.

If you would like to help preserve Chatfield, there are still things you can do. Letters should be sent to

Continued on page 3

the Governor, both U.S. Senators, and the Representatives whose districts include part of Chatfield: Diana DeGette, Mike Coffman, and Jared Polis. (If you wrote to the Corps of Engineers, you can simply send a copy of that letter.)

The next opportunity for public comment will be before the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, when it reviews the mitigation plan for the project.

The Commission will take public comment in December in Pueblo and probably also in January in Denver. It is not too early to write to



Yellow-breasted Chat near nest in Chatfield SP in low shrubs that will be killed if the pool is raised. *Lee Farrell*

them, at Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.



Lark Sparrow photographed in Chatfield SP on ground nest that will be flooded if Chatfield Pool is raised. *Lee Farrell*

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

wetlands, grassland, and small creeks).

This ranch is quite similar in habitat to the Chico Basin Ranch, with two dam ponds and wooded areas.

There are no restroom facilities at the ranch or nearby, so we will stop in East Colorado Springs on our drive down and again on our way back; plan accordingly.

This will be an all-day trip so bring water and lunch. Scopes would be handy but not necessary. Two-way radios per car would be helpful.

We will bird until 4:00 p.m. and should be back at Castle Rock around 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 13

The Big Sit

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Joey Kellner,
303-978-1748

Parks Pass required. Meeting place: Heron Overlook, Chatfield SP.

From Wadsworth Blvd. entrance, go right at the T and continue around the reservoir. After you cross the South Platte River make a hard left into the large parking lot labeled Heronry Overlook.

At the far right corner, a trail leads down to the Heron Overlook.

The Big Sit, an international birding event, has exacting, loose, and frivolous standards.

Big Sitters count all the birds they see or hear from within a circle with a 17-foot diameter.

Count Sitters may send out scouts and beaters to find other birds and identify them as long as a Sitter sees the bird from within the circle.

All around the world, on this
Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

date, people will Big Sit! Come and join Joey Kellner and other recruits any time after dawn.

Stay for an hour, all morning, or all day. Drop by whenever you like or volunteer to substitute for Big Sit leaders for an hour or two. (Pre-registration not required.)

Joey maintains an hourly chart of the birds that Sitters see from the circle. In the past few years he has tallied 55–65 species.

Bring chairs, breakfast, lunch, dinner, picnics, coffee, etc. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, and other essential birding equipment.

Saturday, October 19
Cherry Creek State Park
Leader: Mary Keithler,
303-771-1421

Meet leader at the west marina at 8:00 a.m. Bird until noon.

Be prepared to walk up to two miles. Bring binocs, scopes, water, and dress for the predicted weather.

We will look for late migrants, some waterfowl, and any other birds available.

Call leader if you have questions.

Sunday, October 20
Jackson and Prewitt
Reservoirs

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048, christiel@q.com

Call or email to reserve place on the trip. **Limited to 10 attendees.**

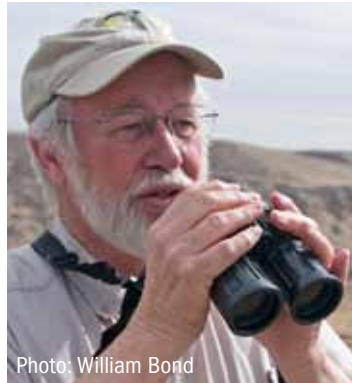
Meet leader at 7:00 a.m. at the Park-n-Ride on the southwest corner of Highway 287 and Niwot Road.

This is approximately 1 mile north of the intersection of Highways 287 and 52.

Participants need an **annual**

Continued on next page

New manual will aid field trip leaders



From the President

Chuck Hundertmark

Recently, I had the chance to review a draft of the new *DFO Field Trip Leader Manual*. The manual is being developed as a resource for our trip leaders.

One suggestion that caught my attention advised, “As a leader, don’t devote excessive time to being a photographer.” I almost always lug my Nikon along on trips I lead for DFO and other organizations.

I’m not sure if I spend “excessive time” being a photographer, but this admonition in the manual will guide me to pay more attention this practice when I’m leading DFO trips.

It was a reminder to me of one of the key points about the role of trip leader. When you lead a field trip, it’s not about you; it’s about the trip participants. The role of the trip leader is to provide a safe and delightful experience for trip participants.

In the two and a half years I’ve served as DFO president, I’ve come to realize there is a lot of variation among DFO trip leaders. Some are avid listers; some are expert on specific locations; some are dedicated photographers; and others are excellent at helping participants find the bird and learn the field marks. These and other differences are what make our trips interesting and create devoted followers of particular leaders.

There are other differences among leaders, however, that are not so constructive. Some leaders don’t use the DFO waiver; some don’t submit trip lists until hounded to do so; some use recordings excessively; and some are less conscious of safety and unprepared for emergencies.

During my years in the corporate world, I learned that every organization no matter how successful can find ways to improve its performance. The same is true for individuals.

This fall, DFO will roll out a new trip leader development process with a pilot session October 26. In that session, a small group of board members and veteran trip leaders will have a chance to discuss the new *DFO Field Trip Leader Manual*. The manual has been developed by a committee comprising Karen von Saltza, Paul Slingsby, and Mark Amershek.

Karen brings organizing experience from working with the Audubon Society of Greater Denver’s field trip program. Paul is an experienced DFO trip leader whose trips are always popular. He also brings experience with the Colorado Mountain Club’s leader development program. Mark has been an avid participant in DFO field trips and recently has begun leading trips.

At the October pilot session, participants will have an opportunity to critique the draft manual and suggest improvements. The development committee will then integrate those suggestions and roll out the revised manual to current trip leaders in the first quarter of 2014.

I hope this will be the first step toward a process of ongoing efforts to make DFO field trips an increasingly better experience for leaders and participants.

DFO grants \$5000 for five projects

by Chris Blakeslee

Because of the incredible support of donations by the DFO membership in 2013, the DFO Board and Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Committee awarded \$5000 in grants for five exciting projects. The scope of these five grants incorporated all of DFO's grant goals: avian research, education, and conservation of bird habitat. See the July 2013 *Lark Bunting* (www.dfobirder.org) for details on each of the grants.

On August 20th, a large audience at the DMNS was treated to a vintage presentation of Dr. Alfred M. Bailey's Travel Lecture Series film about the Hawaiian Islands. This film had not been seen in 50 years, and DFO provided a portion of the funding to bring this historic film back to "life."

Another 2013 grant for \$600 was made through DFO's Joe Roller to the Woodlyn Lions Club and the Friends of Last Chance Oasis for avian habitat restoration following the 2012 wildfire in Last Chance. Joe's article describing the massive effort that went into this project was in the July 2013 *Lark Bunting* (pages 2-3). A 9-inch rainfall damaged some of the project, but Joe and others will repair it on September 7.

When the other three projects are completed in September, we will hear more about them: Jeff Birek (fall bird banding project with children), Rob Sparks (Eastern Screech-Owl population study), and Jessica Fish (UC-Denver M.S. Mountain Bluebird research).

The grants supporting the projects described above are cooperative efforts with many other organizations. A partial list includes the DMNS, RMBO, Woodlyn Lions Club, Evergreen Audubon, the Colorado Bluebird Project, the Ft. Collins Museum of Discovery, the New Belgium Brewing Company, Wild Birds Unlimited, Colorado State University Environmental Learning Center, and others!

This has been a great year for our grants program and we look forward to bigger and better things in 2014. You will hear more about each of these great projects in future *Lark Buntings* and at future DFO meetings. For more details on the DFO grants process and guidelines, check the DFO website (www.dfobirders.org). We thank the DFO members who generously supported this program. And thank you to the 2013 DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Committee for their hard work: Carol Cochran, Candice Johnson, Tina Jones, and Chris Blakeslee (chair).

Donations for 2014 grants needed

As you renew your DFO membership for 2014, **please consider making a generous donation** to the DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Fund. We depend solely on donations to operate the grants program.

In 2012, DFO awarded four worthwhile grants that supported a wildlife habitat garden at East High School, binoculars for DPS middle school students, Black Swift research, and an educational workshop for Eastern Plains land managers. In 2013, DFO awarded an additional five worthy grants (see article above).

Your generous donation along with your membership renewal will allow DFO to continue supporting avifauna research and education projects.

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

SWA Permit per person and a State Parks Pass.

This will be an all-day trip so be sure to bring lunch, snacks, water, good walking shoes, and appropriate clothing for weather forecast.

We will look for waterfowl, late migrants, and any residents preparing for winter.

Saturday, October 26
Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR
Leader: David Rhoades,
303-424-8633

Space is limited on this very popular trip. At 8 a.m. meet the leader and bird until 1 p.m.

For details on the trip and directions, **please register by phone** since space on the bus is limited.

Late migrants and waterfowl are expected to be seen on this trip. Lunch is optional.

Sunday, October 27
Longmont Area Birding
Leader: Nancy Wesorick,
970-532-2194

Meet leader at 8 a.m. at Jim Hamm Natural Area parking lot.

From I-25 take Exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld County Line Road, then approximately two miles north to park on left at E 17th Avenue.

Bird until 1 or 2 p.m. Walking will be held to less than two miles, and we will drive from site to site.

We will be looking for waterfowl, raptors, late shorebirds, and resident birds getting ready for winter.

Contact leader to register.

—Scheduled by Chris Owens

Colorado Birds of the Month: October

Ira Sanders

The purpose of this column is to give you an idea of what birds to look for in the current month and where to look for them.

I have enlisted the help of some well known birders around the state for their input and I hope this column is of help to you.

In October, the average high in Denver is 66 degrees and the average low is 36 degrees, down 11 degrees on the high and 12 degrees on the low from September, although it has reached 89 degrees and has fallen to 3 degrees.

October is a month of temperature extremes as illustrated by the temperatures in Brown's Park on October 20, 1995. The low was 5 degrees and the high that day was 69 degrees.

That one-day temperature swing is a greater temperature change than some coastal cities see in a year.

Gambel oak and other oak trees (found mostly in western and southern Colorado) reach their color peak in early October.

On the Front Range, Castlewood Canyon State Park near Franktown is a good place to go. Aspen trees are losing their leaves as their color extravaganza comes to a close.

Sandhill Cranes begin their southward migration and can be seen and heard in numbers ranging from two to several hundred over the eastern plains. You will frequently hear but not see them as their almost prehistoric call carries for miles.

Waterfowl migration picks up from the trickle that began in September. You can see 20 or more species of dabbling and diving ducks as well as grebes and loons by checking key places in Colorado.



Pectoral Sandpiper was one of many migrating shorebirds at Jackson Reservoir and other eastern plains lakes in September. *Chuck Hundertmark*

In eastern Colorado, they include Lake Pueblo State Park, Barr Lake State Park, Sawhill and Walden Ponds in Boulder, Jumbo and Pre-witt in the northeast, and the plains reservoirs in the southeast.

Other good places to check are Big Johnson Reservoir in Colorado Springs, Monte Vista NWR near Alamosa, and John Martin Reservoir 25 miles west of Lamar.

In the west, Totten Reservoir near Cortez, Vallecito Reservoir near Durango, Highline Reservoir near Grand Junction, and Fruitgrowers Reservoir near Delta are good spots for unusual species.

The mountain reservoirs near Fairplay, like Spinney, Elevenmile, and Antero, and also Hartsel and Lake George, have in recent years turned up all three scoter species as well as rare gulls and four species of loons.

Of special note is the possibility of the one-day-wonder murrelets. Ancient and Long-billed Murrelets have been seen at several Front Range locales in the past. It appears that all sightings have been between October 15 and December 5.

Places as small as Bear Creek Lake Park in Jefferson County (November 8, 2004) and as large as Chatfield Reservoir, Lake Pueblo, and Blue Mesa Reservoir have had murrelets for one day.

Shorebirds are still coming through in October, though almost all are now juveniles as the adults have gone through in prior months.

October is best for Black-bellied and American Golden Plovers. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was seen on October 7, 2000 at John Martin Reservoir, so rarities are a definite

Continued on page 7

possibility. Shorebird variety is better earlier in the month.

Late migrant warblers such as Black-throated Blue, Palm, and Pine Warblers among the numerous Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers can be found almost anywhere there are trees and shrubs.

Ospreys can be found at larger lakes along the foothills as they migrate south, but get increasingly difficult to see as the month draws to a close.

Rough-legged Hawks start to make their appearance on the plains as well as migrant Short-eared Owls and Merlins.

Sabine's Gulls (juvenile birds are much more likely, but adults are not uncommon) are moving through and along the Front Range. Chatfield Reservoir can be a good place.

This is also the best time of year for jaegers. Watch the flocks of gulls for a falcon-like bird harassing them.

Late migrant hummingbirds pass through in October with the possibility of a "rare" or unusual species at your own feeder.

Juncos, American Tree Sparrows, and White-crowned Sparrows start to arrive as the last of the "warm weather" sparrows such as Chip-



Pine Warbler seen in Becky Campbell's yard in Denver in mid-December 2011, a very late fall migrant. *Kay Niyo*

ping, Clay-colored, Vesper, and Lincoln's leave.

Look among flocks of White-crowned Sparrows for the occasional Harris's, White-throated, or maybe even a Golden-crowned Sparrow.

A Golden-crowned Sparrow has become an annual visitor to the Red Rocks Trading Post feeders. Red Rocks is located near Morrison west of Denver.

Look VERY carefully at ALL western-type kingbirds after mid-September as they are likely to be Cassin's Kingbirds, or even a

"rarer" species. Colorado has two Thick-billed Kingbird records but no Tropical Kingbird records... yet.

I thank Norm Lewis, Karl Stecher, Joey Kellner, and Bill Kaempfer for their contributions to this month's column.

If you have suggestions for any months yet to come for anywhere in the state, please feel free to email them to me at zroadrunner14@gmail.com.

See <http://coloradocountybirding.com/> and click on "Find a Site" for birding locations.

Board votes to increase dues for mailed DFO newsletter

Cost analysis in August showed that the DFO members who receive the *Lark Bunting* by email are subsidizing the printing and postage costs for the mailed newsletter.

Therefore the board voted to increase 2014 DFO dues (beginning

in October 2013) from \$30 to \$35 for members who request a mailed newsletter.

Dues for those who receive the newsletter by email will remain at \$20.

A reminder that memberships ex-

pire December 31 but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1.

We encourage those who have email addresses to opt to receive the *Lark Bunting* in full color and much faster than by USPS.

So Sayeth the Speaker . . .

Tim Johnson

It's daunting to attempt a summary of John Vanderpoel's "Full Chase Mode," his lighthearted yet intense program describing his 2011 Big Year.

He began by recounting a tale of Tax Day in Ft. Lauderdale. Cranky after pursuing a worthless lead to an Antillean Nighthawk atop a Winn-Dixie grocery store—which turned out to be a Least Tern—he decided to do laundry, only to be alerted that a Fork-tailed Flycatcher was in the area.

Donning his last clothes and sporting colors Santa might choose for a beery St. Patrick's Day celebration, he managed to track the bird down and added a few other birds for good measure! You can't make this stuff up!

More seriously, John described his Big Year goals as seeing more than 700 bird species (total was 744), raising money for conservation, and writing an honest daily blog about the attempt.

He covered 121,646 miles in 35 states, and his audience saw samples from all of what he called the "Big Five" states (FL, AK, AZ, CA, TX), which he visited multiple times. (His son Scott, being a United Airlines intern at the time, facilitated some of this as it enabled John to occasionally fly free.)

The six Alaska trips provided typical snapshots of the birding highs and lows.

The first trip to Gambell on St. Lawrence Island was partly a bust, with east winds keeping strays from Asia well away.

On a later trip to St. Paul in the Pribiloff Islands, a storm with westerly winds swept in a Rustic Bunting, a Siberian Accentor, and



Red-billed Tropicbird. *Kay Niyo*

other rarities. This trip even offered sightseeing with food: the cafeteria of Trident Seafoods!

John covered too much ground to recount in full, but other highlights were a trip to Maine, which began in the Freeport, ME police station parking lot, progressed to the first Maine record of a Little Egret in Portland, and ended with a pelagic trip to Seal Island, where guide John Drury summoned a Red-billed Tropicbird like a spirit from the vasty deep.

Closer to home, we joined him on a trip to Prewitt Reservoir with Rock Dove Tours (consisting that day of John and long-time friend Peter Gent) where they bagged an elusive Cassin's Vireo and Canada Warbler.

John suggested that Colorado be added to the Big Five; he spent about 95 days in Colorado by my count, and noted that we have all the grouse species.

If you have a chance to see John's well-scripted show, don't miss it. If you can't see it, the full blog is available at www.bigyear2011.com.

I'm planning to book a reservation with Rock Dove Tours.



John on a pelagic birding trip. *Linda Vanderpoel*

Fall offerings at Denver Museum of Nature and Science

DMNS/RMBO Series:

The Feat of Bird Migration

September 12, 19, and 26, 6:30–8:30 p.m., DMNS

September 21, 8–10 a.m., field trip to Barr Lake Banding Station

Cost – \$105, or \$75 for DMNS and RMBO members

Learn about how, why, and where birds migrate during an immersive presentation in the Planetarium, study specimens in the Denver Museum's ornithology collections, and visit a banding station.

Grouse, Crows, and Bird Origins

Save the Last Dance:

A Story of North American Grassland Grouse

Thursday, October 3, 7 p.m.

Phipps IMAX Theater

Tickets: \$15, or \$12 for DMNS and RMBO members

Award-winning photographer Noppadol Paothong will share the stories behind the photos in his new book *Save the Last Dance: A Story of*



Two of family of four Common Crows that nested in Evergreen. Kay Niyo

North American Grassland Grouse.

Book sale and signing to follow.

Get to Know the Crow

Tuesday, October 22, 7 p.m.

Ricketson Auditorium

Tickets: \$10, or \$8 for DMNS and RMBO members

Dr. John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington, will share stories about

the intelligence and unexpected abilities of crows.

He is the author of the book *Gifts of the Crow*, and his research has been featured on the television show *Nature* and in the documentary *A Murder of Crows*.

Living Dinosaurs

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.

Ricketson Auditorium

Tickets: \$12, or \$8 for

DMNS and RMBO members

Dr. Julia Clarke, associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, will present recent research and discoveries scientists are using to paint a vibrant new picture of dinosaurs and the origin of birds.

Tickets: 303-370-6000 or visit www.dmns.org/afterhours.

Renowned birder, photographer will headline RMBO BBQ

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) will host the 11th annual BBQ for the Birds, a yearly celebration of birds, people, and land, to raise funds for conservation and education programs.

The BBQ for the Birds will take place from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 5 at the Old Stone House at Barr Lake State Park, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane in Brighton, Colorado.

The event is open to the public and features bird banding, bird walks, kids' activities, live raptors, live music, workshops, presentations, exhibitors, silent and live auctions,

and a harvest-themed lunch.

Greg Miller will lead a bird walk at 7 a.m., make the featured presentation, "My Big Year," and host a workshop on citizen science with RMBO biologist Jeff Birek. Miller is a nationally acclaimed speaker whose participation in a birding competition was portrayed in the book and film *The Big Year*.

In addition, award-winning wildlife photographer Noppadol Paothong will host a photography workshop at 9:30 a.m. Paothong recently published the book *Save the Last Dance: A Story of North American Grassland Grouse*.

Admission, which includes lunch and all activities, is \$11 for RMBO members, \$13 for nonmembers, \$6 for ages 5–12, and free for kids under 5. Register by September 27 and save \$1 off per person. Register online at www.rmbo.org or by calling 970-482-1707 Ext. 30 by October 3, or at the door on the day of the event.

Proceeds from the BBQ for the Birds will benefit RMBO's conservation and education programs. The event is sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Wild Birds Unlimited, United Power, DFO, and others.

Travel and Birding

Mary Cay Burger

Focus on Nature (for photographers)
October 5–6 in Sherwood, Oregon
Friends of Tualatin River NWR
www.trpotosociety.org

A festival to celebrate nature through photography featuring workshops and seminars on photographing birds and landscapes.

Contact Person: Norman Penner, 503-579-5822

Bird Festival at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
October 10–13 in Miami, Florida
In partnership with Tropical Audubon Society (TAS)
www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/Bird-Festival/

Off-site birding field trips Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11. The weekend's events will include lectures, expert-led bird walks, vendors offering bird-attracting plants, kids activities, and more.

The 2013 Keynote Speaker will be Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding*, the flagship publication of the American Birding Association.

Contact Person: Vanessa A. Balta Cook, 305-667-1651 x3377

Yellow Rails and Rice Festival 2013
October 23–27 in Jennings, Louisiana
www.snowyegretenterprises.com/Snowy_Egret_Enterprises/Yellow_Rails_%26_Rice_Festival.html

Provides a unique venue to view Yellow Rails. Based in Jennings, participants are positioned in the heart of Cajun Country in Louisiana's southwest prairie region, an area known for great birding, local cuisine, and a rich history and culture.

Contact Person: Donna L Dittmann, 225-642-5763

Cape May Autumn Birding Festival
October 25–27
Cape May Bird Observatory (CMBO)
Cape May, New Jersey
www.njaudubon.org/Home.aspx

The 67th Annual Cape May Autumn Weekend: A three-day birding and nature festival with workshops, programs, field trips, hawk-banding demos, boat trips, and more.

Preregistration required by calling CMBO at 609-884-2736 or 609-861-0700.



Limpkin in Florida. Kay Niyo



Purple Gallinule in southwest Louisiana. Kay Niyo

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2014)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2014)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2013

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	303-287-1644
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
May	Jackie King	303-287-1644
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
August	Jackie King	303-287-1644
September	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	303-287-1644
December	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Grants

Chris Blakeslee chrisabla@aol.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Webmaster

Richard Holmes Anderson rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list www.cfobirds.org

Colorado Rare Bird Alert

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hlif, Dick Schottler 303-650-8750

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check www.dfobirders.org, Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303-659-8750), or COBirds.

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Upcoming Speakers

Lynn Wickersham Sept. 23
“Report on Colorado Atlas II”
See details on page 1

Brian Linkhart Oct. 28
“Flammulated Owl Research”

Susan Bonfield Nov. 25
“Engage Latinos Home
and Abroad in Birding”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 20
☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 35
☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21)	\$ 5
☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

☐ **Do not publish in roster.**

Email (legible) _____

☐ **Do not publish in roster. (Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)**

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

New: DFO Conservation Report

Field Trip Manual

DFO Grants Total \$5000



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/NOVEMBER 2013/VOL 49 NO 11

WWW.DFOBIRDERS.ORG

Field Trips

Saturday, November 2 Scoter Trip

**Leader: Joey Kellner,
303-978-1748**

Meet at 6:30 a.m. on the side of Deer Creek Canyon Road just west of Wadsworth to join Joey in an all-day search for migrant grebes, loons, and scoters.

Bring lunch and come prepared for all kinds of weather and the wide variety of driving conditions November can bring in Colorado!

A State Parks pass is required for the drivers of carpooling vehicles. **Call leader if going.**

Sunday, November 3 Pueblo Reservoir

**Leaders: Ira and Tammy
Sanders, 303-278-7172**

Meet leaders at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Safeway in Lone Tree at Yosemite St. and Lincoln Ave. Bring plenty of water and lunch for an all-day trip.

State Parks pass required.
Call leaders if going.

Saturday, November 9 South Platte Reservoir and River Trail

**Leaders: Barbara Shissler
and Cindy Valentine,
303-589-4431**

<dandcval@earthlink.net>

Meet leaders at 8 a.m. at parking adjoining the South Platte Reservoir.

The Reservoir is just north of Chatfield off of C-470. Take C-470 to the Wadsworth Blvd. exit and turn north onto Wadsworth Blvd.

Continued on page 2

Wise old owls: Are Flammulated Owls sentinels of environmental change?

Brian Linkhart, of Colorado College, will be the featured speaker at the Monday, October 28, meeting of DFO. Dr. Linkhart will share insights gleaned from more than three decades of study on the Flammulated Owl.

The speaker is an Associate Professor of Biology at the college, where he has taught field biology, ecology, and ornithology since 2001.

For 30 years he has studied the ecology of grassland and forest birds, including Greater Prairie Chickens, Wild Turkeys, accipiter hawks, and several owl species. His most intensive studies have focused on Flammulated Owls, raptors as small as a fist and fleeting as shadows in a ponderosa pine forest.

Once nearly unknown and presumed to be rare, the owl is now neither. Over the past three decades Dr. Linkhart and his students have contributed to its study by learning much about its ecology and habitat requirements.

By teaching his students how to listen for and chase down singing males

under the cover of starlit skies, Dr. Linkhart and his small army of assistants work throughout the summers in Colorado's pine forests to locate nests, capture and band owls and owlets, and ultimately to record the breeding histories of individual males and females over their lifetimes.

What insightful patterns have these ledgers of reproduction and survival revealed about where they live and with whom they choose to breed? As barometers of environmental change, are these owls affected by shifts in climate and alternations to pine forests? Studies focused on the breeding lives of Flammulated Owls since 1981 offer insight into these queries, and also raise new questions.

The meeting is in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter through the west door by 7:30 p.m. We must lock the door a little after that time.



Flammulated Owl. Brian Linkhart



Brian Linkhart. Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Turn right (east) on Chatfield Way Ave. and follow the road (which becomes Platte Canyon Road [CO-71]).

On Chatfield Way Ave., turn right at the sign that says South Platte Reservoir and follow it around the front of the reservoir parallel to C-470 to the parking lot next to C-470. You can see the reservoir from C-470.

The reservoir sometimes has unusual migrants (Long-tailed Duck last year). Afterwards, we will walk along South Platte River looking for shorebirds and ducks. The walk is 3–4 miles.

Trip will finish at noon. Bring water and a scope if you have one.

Sunday, November 10 Castlewood Canyon State Park and Kingery's bird feeders Leaders: Hugh and Urling Kingery, 303-641-8823

Meet leaders at 8 a.m. at CO Hwy. 86 and Castlewood Canyon Road (Douglas Co. Road 51).

The group may bird in the park, the local gravel pits, and other local places depending on bird activity.

The walking portion will involve a two-mile walk or so, depending on the birds and the group.

Bring lunch and your State Parks pass. Group will eat lunch while watching the feeders at the Kingery's home.

This trip is especially good for the novice birder and new members.

Saturday, November 16 Denver City Park Leader: Chuck Hundertmark, 303-604-0531

Meet leader at 8 a.m. at parking strip southwest of 22nd Ave. just north of Ferril Lake.

Continued on next page

DFO ranks in eBird's top 100

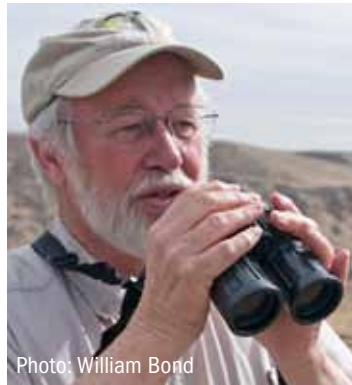


Photo: William Bond

From the President

Chuck Hundertmark

As I write this, DFO is number 35 on the list with 115 checklists submitted this year and 249 species reported.

Only one other Colorado birding organization appears on the list, and that is the Boulder Bird Club at number 67. It could be the other bird clubs simply didn't have enough observations to make the top 100, but I suspect that most of them aren't using eBird yet. So, DFO can take pride in remaining a leader among Colorado birding organizations.

Of course, the "Top 100" list can quickly inspire a birder's competitive streak. When I started paying attention to this list, I found myself starting to plan my personal field trips to areas where there was a high chance of adding new species to my year list.

Perhaps the list will motivate DFO to begin scheduling more trips away from the Denver area to build our list.

If you are an eBirder but haven't yet checked the "Top 100," I urge you to do so. The link is found on the right side of the "Explore Data" page under "Your Totals."

If you've been birding regularly in Colorado this year, you may be surprised to see where you stand in the Colorado rankings.

I'm still on a learning curve with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology eBird data management website. While working with the "Explore Data" feature of the site this summer, I discovered the "Top 100" link. This feature of eBird allows you to see a list of the top 100 hundred "eBirders" in a state or region.

When DFO trip leaders enter their trip reports in eBird, they share the list with "dfobirders." This puts the report in the Denver Field Ornithologists eBird account. As a result, Denver Field Ornithologists appears in the list of top 100 Colorado eBirders.



Look for Three-toed Woodpeckers especially near burned forest in higher terrain. *Alistair Montgomery*

Donations for 2014 grants needed

As you renew your DFO membership for 2014, please consider making a generous donation to the DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Fund. We depend solely on donations to operate the grants program.

In 2012, DFO awarded four worthwhile grants and in 2013 DFO awarded an additional five worthy grants (see October 2013 *Lark Bunting*, page 5).

Your generous donation along with your membership renewal will allow DFO to continue supporting avifauna research and education projects.

Horned Grebes
migrate through
Colorado; look
for them in their
nonbreeding
plumage. *Chuck
Hundertmark*



Clark's Grebes
can be seen
among the many
migrating and
overwintering
Western Grebes
on deep water
bodies on the
Front Range and
throughout west-
ern Colorado.
Kay Niyo



Common Loons
will be seen
wintering in
Colorado lakes.
Kay Niyo



Field Trips

Continued from page 2

From Colorado Blvd., turn west onto 22nd Ave. and go past the Museum of Nature and Science.

Turn left just before the zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand. Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake.

We'll check Ferril Lake and Duck Lake for early winter water birds. An easy morning walking.

Bring water, snacks, and binoculars; scopes optional.

Half-day trip. **Limit of 10 participants. Call or email leader** if you plan to attend. <chundertmark8@gmail.com>

**Sunday, November 17
Cherry Creek Reservoir
Leader: Mary Cay Burger,
303-771-3431**

Meet leader at 9 a.m. at the east entrance of park. Bring water and snacks as this will be a half-day trip. State Parks pass required.

**Saturday, November 23
Chatfield State Park
Leader: Ed Holub,
303-979-2194**

Meet leader at 8 a.m. at the fee station inside west entrance, which is off South Wadsworth Blvd., 1.5 miles south of C-470.

Lunch is optional as the trip will be half day but bring snacks and water. State Parks pass required.

**Sunday, November 24
Wheat Ridge Green Belt
(Prospect Park Lake)
Niña Routh, 303-987-8687**

Meet leader at 8:30 a.m. in front of the indoor restrooms located in the big parking lot at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on the south side of West 44th Ave., just east of Robb St.

Continued on next page

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

Trip will be on well-maintained trails. Dress for Colorado weather and bring water and snacks. Lunch is optional as trip will finish about 11:30 a.m.

Scopes are welcome; ducks, wintering residents, and raptors will probably be seen as well as the resident snapping turtle.

Friday, November 29

Gobbler Walk

**Leader: Jackie King,
720-361-3314**

Meet leader at 9 a.m. to walk off some of that Thanksgiving celebration!

Meet at the Walnut Parking Lot on the Auraria Campus, 4th and Walnut St.

We will proceed to walk on paved paths along the South Platte River to see what is wintering there.

If people want to check out some of the big, old trees on the campus, they can have some nice surprises.

Half-day trip, lunch is optional; bring water and a snack. This trip is especially good for the novice birder and new members.

Please call leader if going.

Saturday, November 30

RMBO Annual Barrow's

Goldeneye Count

Silverthorne, Grand Lake Areas

**Leader: Paul Slingsby,
303-422-3728**

Meet leader at the Stegosaurus lot to carpool at 8 a.m.

From I-70 west, exit 259 (the Morrison exit), head south a very short distance on CO-26 and turn left (east) into the parking lot (look for the Stegosaurus sign).

This is the same lot as used by Hawk Watch. We will meet at the south end of the lot near the driveway.

Continued on next page

So Sayeth the Speaker . . .

Tim Johnson

For those of us who refer to the first Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas (CBBA1) regularly, and those to whom quantifying bird behavior over a large area is a new idea, September's DFO meeting was a font of information.

Lynn Wickersham, MS, of the San Juan Institute of Natural and Cultural Resources at Fort Lewis College in Durango, described the methodology and gave sample data forthcoming from the second CBBA for which she is Project Manager.

CBBA2 is tentatively scheduled for publication, along with an on-line database, at the end of 2014.

Lynn described in some detail the mechanics and methodology of CBBA2, which I will not repeat here. The methodology was essentially identical to CBBA1 and can be downloaded, along with the entire text of CBBA1, from the CBBA2 website: <www.cobreeding-birdatlasii.org>.

Lynn emphasized the values of having an immense effort of this kind, involving data collection by more than 300 participants, over approximately a five-year period with intended repeats every 20 years (CBBA1 collected data from 1987–1995, published in 1998; CBBA2 collected from 2007–2012).

She indicated that one of the main foci of CBBA2 was how land-use change affected the data, and another was the provision of essential information for environmental and biological assessments required by government and other institutions.

Comparative data from CBBA1

and 2 are clearly important for habitat conservation questions.

In describing the objectives of CBBA2, Lynn frequently used the term phenology, the study of periodic biological behavior in relation to climatic conditions and habitat factors (e.g., altitude).

Now that quantitative data from two BBAs 20 years apart are available, interesting phenologic questions may be asked concerning, for example, the seasonal timing of bird breeding behaviors.

As for the CBBA2 data themselves, the 263 confirmed breeding species contained a few new ones including Hooded Merganser, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and three dove species— Eurasian Collared-, Inca, and White-winged.

The most interesting data were the “change maps,” which graphically compared bird distributions from CBBA1 and 2.

Based on all observations and not just breeding, these allowed one to quickly discern possible range declines (e.g., Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Yellow-billed Cuckoo), regional declines (Western Screech-Owl on the Western Slope), range shifts (Lewis's Woodpecker), and possible range expansions (e.g., Osprey, Black Phoebe in SW Colorado, Great-tailed Grackle mainly in eastern Colorado).

In a harbinger of things to come, Lynn suggested that Red-winged Blackbirds, whose distribution did not change much, were breeding about a week earlier than they did 20 years ago.

We can all look forward to a treasure trove of information when this important study is published.

Fall offerings at Denver Museum

Get to Know the Crow

Tuesday, October 22, 7 p.m.

Ricketson Auditorium

Tickets: \$10, or \$8 for DMNS and RMBO members

Dr. John Marzluff, professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington, will share stories about the intelligence and unexpected abilities of crows. He is the author of the book *Gifts of the Crow*, and his research has been featured on the television show *Nature* and in the documentary *A Murder of Crows*.



A pair of Common Crows. Chuck Hundertmark

Living Dinosaurs

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.

Ricketson Auditorium

Tickets: \$12, or \$8 for DMNS and RMBO members

Dr. Julia Clarke, associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, will present recent research and discoveries scientists are using to paint a vibrant new picture of dinosaurs and the origin of birds.

Tickets: 303-370-6000 or visit <www.dmns.org/afterhours>



Barrow's Goldeneyes will be seen on Paul's November 30th field trip. This one of 17 was photographed at the Silverthorne water treatment plant in 2011. Kay Niyo

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

We will count Barrow's Goldeneyes and other birds at the Silverthorne water treatment plant and then drive to Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake, and Grand Lake.

Spotting scopes, binoculars, and 2-way radios will be very useful.

Limit of 10 persons; registration with the leader is required.

Dress for very cold and windy weather even if the forecast is for a comfortable day. Insulated, wind-proof leg coverings, and warm boots are recommended.

Bring a lunch and hot thermos, but we may find a warm place to buy a lunch if our schedule allows.

We will try to be back at the Stegosaurus lot by dark.

Saturday, November 30

Belmar Historic Park

Leader: Karleen Schofield, 303-936-8661

Meet leader at 9 a.m. at the lake at 800 S. Wadsworth Blvd. at W. Ohio Ave.

Turn west on Ohio Ave., and go 2 blocks straight ahead into Irongate parking lot and to lake.

Bring water and snacks; trip will finish about 11 a.m. Indoor restrooms will be available at 10 a.m. at the library and the visitor center.

This trip is especially good for the novice birder and new members.

—Scheduled by Jackie King

Colorado Birds of the Month: November

Ira Sanders

The purpose of this column is to give you an idea of what birds to look for in the current month and where to look for them. I have enlisted the help of some well known birders around the state for their input and I hope this column is of help to you.

In November, the average high in Denver is 53 degrees and the average low is 25 degrees, down 13 degrees on the high and 11 degrees on the low from October, although it has reached 79 degrees and has fallen to -8 degrees with Alamosa falling to -30 degrees. Average snow fall for Denver in November is 8.2 inches, but 39.1 inches has fallen during the month.

Bald Eagles start arriving in numbers at locales like Barr Lake in Adams County, Marston Reservoir in Denver County, and the Colorado River on the western slope.

Look for Short-eared Owls on fence posts and floating over fields like a big moth at and near the Wellington State Wildlife Area east of Wellington on Larimer County Road 64 and Lower Latham Reservoir near La Salle in Weld County.

Don't rule out finding these owls at other places in Colorado as I had one in the foothills west of our house in Golden in January 2004 and January 2006. Also look for them in the southwestern valleys of the state. Be careful not to confuse Northern Harriers (whose numbers increase this time of year) with the owls as they both hunt in similar habitat. Look for both species at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge near Alamosa.

Rough-legged Hawks are generally the last to arrive to winter in

our state to hunt over wetlands and grasslands looking for mice and voles. They are a little smaller than the Ferruginous Hawks that hang out around prairie dog towns looking for a meal. Good places to look for these raptors, as well as Merlins, are the plains in and east of the Pawnee National Grasslands. Pay special attention to the power line structures and you will probably find a Prairie Falcon among the many other raptors. While you are there, watch for flocks of Horned Larks that may contain Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings.

Pinyon Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers roam many square miles between 5000 and 9000 feet in elevation searching for pinon pines with a good nut crop that they cache for the winter, though the nutcrackers have already been seen this year at lower elevations. Nutcrackers can cache 30,000 seeds. Places with good stands of pinon pine include Dinosaur National Monument north of Rangely, Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction, Mesa Verde National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument near Montrose, State Highway 115 between Colorado Springs and Canon City, and Owl Canyon northwest of Ft. Collins.

As many as six different species of geese arrive in November. Large numbers of Canada and Cackling Geese can be found in many places in the state. A good place to study Cackling Geese is Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Golden. Hundreds of these small geese, some as small as Mallards, can be found there in the winter. Barr Lake hosts thousands of "white-cheeked" geese at this time

of year, and mixed in are quite a few Snow Geese and some Ross's Geese. The challenge is to pick out Greater White-fronted Geese (look for their orange legs if they are out of the water) and maybe a Brant. I've never seen a Brant at Barr Lake, but they have been found at Union Reservoir in western Weld County, Long Lake in Larimer County, Utah Park in Arapahoe County, Chatfield State Park in Jefferson/Douglas Counties, Pueblo Reservoir in Pueblo County, and Inverness Business Park in Douglas County. At the larger lakes, you will need a scope.

The South Platte River is very attractive to waterfowl when the weather gets cold and lakes and ponds start to freeze. The stretch of river between 88th and 74th Avenues west of I-76 is excellent for waterfowl in general including Barrow's Goldeneye and perhaps a Long-tailed Duck, though the chance of seeing these birds on the river increases in December and later in the winter.

Until the mountain reservoirs I mentioned in October freeze over, they are still great places for loons and scoters. Be sure to watch for Red-necked Grebes in these reservoirs and especially at Pueblo Reservoir where they show up with regularity. Also from last month's article, November is the prime time for Ancient and Long-billed Murrelets in Colorado. Keep your eyes open for these rare, small bouncing corks anywhere in the state.

The last of the shorebirds come through (Dowitchers, Black-bellied and American Golden-Plovers, Sanderlings, Least Sandpipers) with

Continued on page 6



Lesser Black-backed Gull can be found over-wintering more frequently on the Front Range. *Ira Sanders*



Great Black-backed Gull is seen in a few places on the Front Range in winter. *Ira Sanders*



Harris's Sparrows in winter plumage frequent brushy areas on the Front Range. *Ira Sanders*

a chance for some “rare” species such as Dunlin. A Dunlin was in the South Platte River just downstream from Chatfield Reservoir last winter and stayed from December through at least January.

Gulls become more abundant with more rare and unusual species showing up. Iceland Gulls have become annual along with Glaucous, Lesser Black-backed, and Great Black-backed Gulls. For almost 20 years, there has been at least one Great Black-backed Gull at Pueblo Reservoir. I remember when Lesser Black-backed Gulls were rare and the first state record Iceland Gull was found in Pueblo in January 1999. Now, the former can be found almost anywhere along the Front Range and the latter in several places each winter. Watch for Little Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake in all the places that gulls gather. Bonaparte's Gulls show up in numbers at Pueblo Reservoir and other lakes in the state.

Some passerines are at their peak in November. Migrant White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows can be found in brushy areas and Harris's Sparrows can be found in places like the Arkansas River Walks in Pueblo and Canon City. Perhaps the Golden-crowned Sparrow will winter at the Red Rocks Trading Post feeders again this year and may be joined by a Curve-billed Thrasher as it was during the winter of 2010–2011. Winter Wrens and the occasional Rusty Blackbird may also appear. Check riparian areas like Clear Creek west of I-70 and in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt in Wheat Ridge. Townsend's Solitaires, though they aren't that solitary this time of year, appear on the plains and in the foothills. Look for them around groups of junipers and other conifers. Red Rocks Park, Chatfield State Park, Crow Valley Campground, and various hedgerows on the plains are good places to look.

I thank Norm Lewis and Joey Kellner for their contributions to this month's column. If you have suggestions for any months yet to come for anywhere in the state, please feel free to email them to me at <zroadrunner14@gmail.com>. See <<http://coloradocountybirding.com/>> and click on “Find a Site” for birding locations.

Travel and Birding

Mary Cay Burger

The Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival Harlingen, Texas November 6–10

All festival events—trip departures, trade show, talks, family programs—are conveniently located at the Fair Park Municipal Complex, 1204 Fair Park Blvd., Harlingen (one exception: the Kick-off Reception).

Deadline: Pre-registration must be completed by 5 p.m. CT on Friday, October 25. After that, walk-in registration is possible, but many trips will be sold out. There are an amazing number of field trips offered with excellent leaders. Register: <www.rgvbf.org>

Central Valley Birding Symposium Stockton, California November 21–24

Judged by many as one of the premier birding events in the west, the CVBS is hosted by the Central Valley Bird Club. There are well-known speakers, multiple field trips, artists' displays, vendors, and birders. Phone: 209-747-6352. Website: <<http://www.cvbs.org>>

Bird Festival Toh Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatán A.C. Merida, Mexico November 22–24

Join in the fun of the bird-a-thon *xoc ch'ich'* (in the Maya language literally means “bird count”) in that teams are rewarded for finding the highest number of bird species in a limited time period, traveling around different routes in Yucatan that includes the coast, wetlands, and forests. Phone: 01 9999884437. Website: <<http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/event/toh-bird-festival-and-birdathon/>>



Brown Boobies can be seen along the coast of the Yucatán. *Kay Niyo*



Look for Bare-throated Tiger-Herons in fresh-water habitats. *Kay Niyo*

Welcome back, Jackie!

When you look at the November field trip list in *The Lark Bunting* this month, you'll see that long-time DFO member Jackie King has returned from a prolonged recovery from surgery. Jackie has been a field trip leader and trip scheduler for DFO for many years. We missed her participation during her surgery, and are delighted that she is back with us.

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2014)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2014)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2013

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	303-287-1644
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
May	Jackie King	303-287-1644
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
August	Jackie King	303-287-1644
September	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	303-287-1644
December	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Grants

Chris Blakeslee chrisabla@aol.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Webmaster

Richard Holmes Anderson rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list www.cfbirds.org

Colorado Rare Bird Alert

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hlif, Dick Schottler 303-650-8750

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check www.dfobirders.org, Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303-659-8750), or COBirds.

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new members:

Susan Perry, Westminster; Kristin Gruebmeier and Fionn, Denver

Upcoming Speakers

Brian Linkhart Oct. 28

“Wise Old Owls: Are
Flammulated Owls Sentinels
of Environmental Change?”

See details on page 1

Susan Bonfield Nov. 25

“Engage Latinos Home
and Abroad in Birding”

Meredith McBurney Jan. 27

“The Passion and the Payoff:
Why We Band Birds and What
We Are Learning”

Diana Tomback Feb. 24

“Corvid Feed Dispersal”

Ted Floyd March 24

“Secrets of Boulder Revealed
At Last”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 20
☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 35
☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21)	\$ 5
☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

☐ **Do not publish in roster.**

Email (legible) _____

☐ **Do not publish in roster. (Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)**

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting
Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742
Featured This Month
President: eBird Rankings
Colorado Birds of November
Travel and Birding: Go South



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/DECEMBER 2013/VOL 49 NO 12

WWW.DFOBIRDERS.ORG

Field Trips

Sunday, December 1
RMBO Annual Barrow's
Goldeneye Count
Longmont Area Lakes
Leader: Chuck Hundertmark,
303-604-0531

At 8 a.m. meet the leader in the parking lot of the Jim Hamm Nature Area, Longmont.

From the Denver area, take I-25 north to Exit 240. Drive west on Highway 119 (Ken Pratt Boulevard) to County Line Road.

Head north on County Line Road and look for the nature area on the left just past 17th Ave.

We'll check Union Reservoir and McIntosh Lake for Barrow's Goldeneyes and other early winter waterfowl. We'll check other area lakes as time allows.

This will be primarily a driving trip. A long half day. Spotting scopes will be useful. **Call or email the leader in advance, chundertmark8@gmail.com.**

Thursday, December 5
Wheat Ridge Green Belt
(Prospect Park Lake)
George Mayfield,
720-289-9395

Meet leader at 8:30 a.m. in front of the indoor restrooms located in the big parking lot at Wheat Ridge Greenbelt on the south side of west 44th Ave., just east of Robb St.

Trip will be on well-maintained trails; easy walking of 1 to 2 miles. Dress for weather and bring water and snacks.

Lunch is optional as trip will finish about 11:30 a.m.

Continued on page 2

Engaging Latinos in birding has rewards

Susan Bonfield, Executive Director of the Environment for the Americas, will be the featured speaker at the Monday, November 25 meeting of DFO.

Susan remarked, "Coming on the heels of talks about Flammulated Owl research and Vanderpoel's Big Year, you may wonder about a presentation that only mentions birds in the context of who's watching.

"Don't despair, because I will sprinkle some bird highlights from some of the amazing places I've been and birds I've seen while working to engage Latinos in one of America's best activities."

The International Hummingbird Festival in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico opened to an enthusiastic crowd of youth and adults, scientists and nature lovers. They had come to learn about and see migratory species, such as the Rufous and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and resident species, including violet-crowned and broad-billed.

The local Latino community was present, and excitement extended beyond the El Charco Nature Center, where it was hosted, to the town of San Miguel, where schools participated in making bird masks and hotels offered discounts.

Attend a bird festival in the U.S., however, and the absence of Latino participants is notable, especially where large Latino communities are in close proximity.

Birding is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the U.S., and over 50 million Americans observe birds around their homes and during travel. Yet birding is challenged to shed its reputation as an activity for the highly educated, upper middle-class, older Caucasian, who takes the market share of the birding demographic.



Susan Bonfield with children in Colombia getting ready for the annual International Migratory Bird Day parade.

Continued on page 10

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Scopes are welcome; ducks, wintering residents, and raptors will probably be seen.

Sunday, December 8
Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)
Leader: Karen von Saltza, cell 303-941-4881

Meet leader at 9 a.m. at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either entrance follow Lake View Rd. to the lot at the south rim of the reservoir. A park pass or day pass is required.

This half-day walk passes through most of the important habitats of the park in a distance of about 4 miles.

Trails may be slippery, so wear boots. Bring water and snacks; lunch is optional.

Beginning birders are welcome. Cosponsored with Denver Audubon Society.

—**Scheduled**
by Candice Johnson

Denver Christmas Bird Count
details on page 3

Board members attend pilot workshop

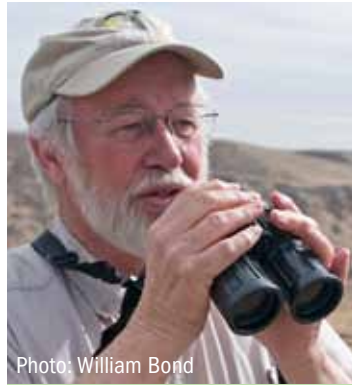


Photo: William Bord

From the President

Chuck Hundertmark

On October 26, eleven DFO board members, trip leaders, and schedulers gave up the chance to chase scoters, loons, and jaegers and instead participated in a pilot workshop to debug the new *Trip Leader Manual*.

DFO's Trip Leader Development Committee led workshop participants through a series of interactive exercises to find out whether the manual reflects current DFO practices or beneficial changes in practice.

As an ex officio member of the committee, I worked with committee chair Karen von Saltza and committee members Paul

Slingsby and Mark Amershek in leading the workshop.

Some participants thought the manual was too long (23 pages plus 8 pages of appendices), but most also thought that the majority of the content was important. A consensus emerged that separating the mandatory parts of the manual from the suggestions would make the manual more usable. The committee has begun making those changes in preparation for the November 14 meeting of the DFO Board of Directors.

After a brief introduction, the manual presents guidelines and suggestions for handling a field trip from the first steps in scheduling a trip through the final steps of submitting a trip report on eBird. An additional section offers tips for handling problems like accidents or injuries. At the suggestion of participants, this section will be integrated with the section on conducting the field trip in general.

The manual expands considerably on the current trip leader guidelines. Much of the new material consists of suggestions for trip safety and for making the trip fun while contributing to citizen science. Once the manual is approved by the board, current and prospective trip leaders will be invited to attend a half-day workshop to introduce them to the manual. The workshop will be offered several times so that all leaders will have a chance to participate.



Join Chuck on December 1 to count Barrow's Goldeneyes!
Chuck Hundertmark

Thanks to Joe Rigli

Long-time DFO member and trip leader Joe Rigli will no longer be leading his popular field trips to the Rigli Ranch east of Hudson.

The trips that Joe led to his family's ranch three or four times a year were a unique offering made possible by Joe's interest in ornithology. They will be sorely missed.

Joe's father passed away recently within a year of the loss of his mother. The Rigli Ranch will be sold by Joe and his siblings. We wish Joe well as his life takes a new direction.

60th Denver Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 14, 2013

Count Leader/Compiler: Joey Kellner (303-978-1748), vireo1@comcast.net

Feeder Coordinator: Veronica Holt (303-646-3829), veronicaholt43@comcast.net

Potluck Coordinator: Cheryl Teuton (303-912-3341), Please call her with what dish you can bring.

Compilation (and potluck) meeting: 5:00 pm, *location to be announced*

All DFO members are encouraged to participate in the annual Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by the Denver Field Ornithologists and the National Audubon Society. To participate, call one of the Area Leaders listed below to assist in a particular area, or call the Count Compiler (contact info above) if you would like to help in an area that still needs additional observers. After a day in the field, all participants are invited to attend the compilation meeting to feast, warm up, chat with other birders, and find out how the count fared. It is a lot of fun. The compilation meeting will be at 5 p.m. The location will be announced in next month's *Lark Bunting*, COBIRDS and by contacting your Area Leader prior to the count. **Feel free to bring a dish or desert to share!**

Fees: None! So, no excuses! Come have a great time and help count birds!

The 15-mile diameter "count circle" is subdivided into 24 "count areas" each with a leader. Area locations and names and phone numbers of Area Leaders are listed below. Participants should contact Area Leaders for count day meeting times and places.

Area Number and Location	Area Leader	Phone Number
1. Red Rocks Park	Bob Brown	303-791-6204
2. Lower Bear Creek	Michael Kiessig	303-909-5169
2A. Bear Creek Lake Park	Mark Amershek	303-329-8646
3. Bow Mar/Marston	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
4A. Lower South Platte - East	Ed Holub	303-979-2194
4B. Lower South Platte - West	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035
5. Highline Ditch	Nancy Crews	303-791-8276
6. Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-917-2596
7A. Middle South Platte - West	Randy Lentz	303-680-3381
7B. Middle South Platte - East	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723
8. Chatfield State Park	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9. Upper South Platte *	Jill Holden	720-288-4018
10. Lower Deer Creek	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000
11. Upper Deer Creek	Paul Slingsby	303-422-3728
12. Yegge Peak	Ann Bonnell	303-979-6211
13. Doublehead Mountain	Amy Davis	303-549-7759
14. North Turkey Creek	Larry Modesitt	303-740-7575
15. Indian Hills	Sherman Wing	303-324-9636
16. Upper Bear Creek	Tom Parchman	303-274-7951
17. Ken Caryl Ranch	Tom Bush	303-904-4576
18. Garrison Gate	Steve Stachowiak	303-791-4974
19. Morrison/Willowbrook	<i>To be announced</i>	
20. Willow Creek	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072
21. Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Wayne Wathen	720-344-0158

* To participate in this area, you must contact the area leader no later than Monday, December 9.

Last Month's Program: Owls and Fire

Tim Johnson

"Flammulated" means having flame-shaped markings, and Brian Linkhart's presentation of Flammulated Owl ecology at October's DFO meeting drove home the aptness of this name beyond its description of the owl.

Dr. Linkhart and generations of students have spent 30 years (and counting) teasing out the close relationship between Flammulated Owls and the fire-dependent ecosystem of mature ponderosa pine forests.

Brian introduced his research with methodology and the basic biology of Flammulated Owls as known at the onset of his studies.

They are the second smallest owls in the U.S., after the Elf Owl. They nest in woodpecker cavities, in a preferred habitat of open, mature ponderosa pine (breeding range is superimposable in the West on ponderosa forests).

Strictly nocturnal and secretive, foraging mainly on moths, they migrate long distances, some spending the winter in Guatemala and southern Mexico.

Brian established four study areas of mixed ponderosa/Douglas-fir in an area west of Colorado Springs, where each year he and his team map the boundaries of owl territories by imitating their territorial calls.

Nests within territories are found by hoisting a video camera on a long pole to check activity in visually identified cavities. Finally, owls are captured and banded to follow individuals over time.

Some highlights from 30 years of data:

- Owls have a low reproductive rate (2.5 eggs/clutch/yr) and breed late (up to 6 years old).
- Males will spend a lifetime returning to the same territory, even if they can't attract mates to it. Females will change territories and mates, and tend to move to historically better ones (judged by owllet numbers) if they can.
- Males glean moths and sing (who knew!) from ponderosas that are typically three times the average stand age (300 years vs. 100). Such trees have larger canopies and better cover.
- Breeding pairs avoid habitat with lots of shade, i.e., greater Douglas-fir to ponderosa ratio. Bachelor owls tend to have more fir in their territories.

These last two observations suggest that historically, owl populations depended on fire since their preferred habitat occurs due to frequent, low-intensity forest fires.

Brian discussed ongoing research



Flammulated Owl. Brian Linkhart

concerning the relationship of owls with fire, and related issues of forest thinning and climate change.

Some points he emphasized:

- Owls have repopulated areas that burned at low intensity in the Hayman fire. In his unburned study areas nearby following the Hayman fire, more owl pairs were recorded and bachelor owls disappeared for a few years.
- Over 30 years, onset of egg incubation has retreated about six days, indicating a warming climate; and the number of fledglings per brood decreased from 2.6 to 1.44 without clutch-size decrease in the same period. Although the cause for this is unclear, it bodes poorly for the future.

Brian concluded with suggestive observations linking breeding success with the ongoing drought, perhaps mediated or aggravated by red squirrel predation.

The length and quality of the audience question period underscored the incisiveness of his presentation. I hope we have an update before 2043.

Fall offering at Denver Museum

Living Dinosaurs

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.

Ricketson Auditorium

Tickets: \$12, or \$8 for DMNS and RMBO members

Dr. Julia Clarke, associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, will present recent research and discoveries scientists are using to paint a vibrant new picture of dinosaurs and the origin of birds. Tickets: 303-370-6000 or visit <www.dmns.org/afterhours>

Divide and conquer when looking at ducks at a distance

by Robert Righter, Denver CO

“Oh no,” we might say, “ducks at a distance, what could be worse!”—and turn our scopes away to zoom onto some nearby, colorful ducks. “Ah, that is much better.”

What do we mean by ducks at a distance? It means ducks that are so far away that no color can be detected, just vague duck-like shapes.

So let's look at how we might approach birding with ducks so far away. First we have to be realistic that not all distant ducks can be identified. But if only a few can be identified, that could still be wildly exciting.

As we are looking at the distant flock let's ask ourselves some questions.

Are the ducks all the same size? If yes, then it appears we have a single species flock; if no, then we can assume the flock is composed of mixed species.

Do some of the ducks appear to be wearing different shades of darkness? If yes, then that would suggest different species, or perhaps the flock also includes female ducks.

Are the ducks feeding on the surface or are some ducks diving?

We have now started breaking down this distant, mysterious blob of darkness into a more manageable waterfowl grouping.



Common Merganser female, a diver more commonly seen in winter. Kay Niyo

Let's check out duck behavior. Of the ducks feeding on the surface, are there some swimming with their heads below the surface? If yes, then this could suggest the filter-feeding Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged or Cinnamon Teal.

But since it is a cold day in November or early December, it is more likely our duck is a Northern Shoveler as the other two teal would be well on their way to southern climes.

Now we notice there is a flock of small ducks, smaller than the shoveler, feeding near the shore. That information fits nicely with the Green-winged Teal.

Of the diving ducks, are there some that look different in size and shape? “Are there a few diving ducks that appear to be more elongated with longish bills held parallel to the water?” Did anyone else see red-brownish on the side of the head on one of those ducks? Bingo!

Careful observation just separated out a merganser species, and by all odds it would be the Common Merganser.

By using the same tools that Napoleon skillfully used, divide and conquer, we were able to slice up that duck flock into manageable, identifiable units. What at first appear to be an impossible chore turned out to be quite an enjoyable birding experience.



A Green-winged Teal feeds near the shore in winter. Kay Niyo

Donations for research, education, conservation grants needed

As you renew your DFO membership for 2014, please consider making a generous donation to the DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Fund. We depend solely on donations to operate the grants program.

In 2012, DFO awarded four worthwhile grants and in

2013 DFO awarded an additional five worthy grants (see October 2013 *Lark Bunting*, page 5).

Your generous donation along with your membership renewal will allow DFO to continue supporting avifauna research and education projects.

It could pay off for conservation if your friends get to 'Know the Crow'

It turns out that lots of people love crows! So many, in fact, that the recent RMBO/DMNS program, “Get to Know the Crow,” presented by Dr. John Marzluff, sold out.

And, the 390 enthusiastic attendees ran the gamut from some of the best birders in Colorado to people who simply feel an attachment to “those big black birds I see around my neighborhood.”

Marzluff told stories from his latest book, *Gifts of the Crow*. For example, he talked about

- crows that learn to open walnuts by putting them on the road in front of the wheels of cars stopped at an intersection;
- ravens who have figured out how to “sled” down snow banks and “glide” on tree bark;
- and (of more than passing interest to me) a crow who brings gifts to a woman who fixes breakfast for him, but screams at and nearly attacks the scientists who captured him six years ago to band him for future identification.

Marzluff coupled his stories with science, explaining how the brain functions.

He talks about the very large and capable brains of corvids, and how they adapt their behavior as they spend more time around humans—they are thriving in the environments that we have created, and are essentially co-evolving with us.

(See Marzluff’s books, *Gifts of the Crow* or *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, for more science and stories.)

So, what does this great presentation full of both science and fun

have to do with conservation?

People will only work to conserve what they love, and we need to increase the number of people who care enough about birds to help protect them.

Marzluff encourages conservation by sharing his knowledge about these charismatic birds in a way that everyone, no matter what their level of experience, can understand and appreciate.

So, let’s look for opportunities to share our passion with our not-yet-bird-loving friends in ways that will be fun, interesting, and not overwhelming for them.

One idea is to invite them to join you at a future RMBO/DMNS program aimed at the more general audience; a good choice might be the one scheduled for January 23 and 24, when noted storyteller Brian “Fox” Ellis performs as John James Audubon. Ellis has presented at DMNS in the past, and word is that audiences love him.

Chatfield Reservoir Storage Reallocation Update

Since so many of us have jour-



American Crow. Lee Farrell



Pomarine Jaeger seen at Chatfield SP in November 2011. Lee Farrell

neyed to Chatfield State Park recently to check out the Pomarine Jaeger, it seems a good time to remind everyone that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will

Continued on page 7



A Pomarine Jaeger harassed Ring-billed Gulls to obtain food during much of October 2013. *Lee Farrell* obtained these action photos.

review the mitigation plan for the storage reallocation project at its meeting in Pueblo on December 12 and 13.

Most of us will not attend, but we can submit written statements to the Commission, requesting that the plan contain firm, enforceable commitments from the Chatfield water providers that will address the loss of the ecological and recreational resources at Chatfield.

Comments should be limited to mitigation issues only. Letters are due by December 1 and should be addressed to the Commission, c/o Public Involvement Unit, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.

If you haven't already done so, there also is still time to write to Governor Hickenlooper. Note that the reallocation as proposed does too much environmental damage for a small, unreliable water supply. Addresses and additional information are available at <www.savechatfield.org>.



Colorado Birds of the Month: December

Ira Sanders

The purpose of this column is to give you an idea of what birds to look for in the current month and where to look for them.

I have enlisted the help of some well known birders around the state for their input and I hope this column is of help to you.

In December, the average high in Denver is 45 degrees and the average low is 17 degrees, down 8 degrees for the high and low from November, although it has reached 75 degrees and has fallen to -25 degrees, and Alamosa has fallen to -42 degrees.

Average snow fall for Denver in December is 7.4 inches but the greatest amount of snowfall in Denver from one storm was 45.7 inches from December 1-6, 1913.

On December 4 and 5, 1913, 37.6 inches were recorded and a 24-hour snowfall record of 25.8 inches occurred on December 4, 1913.

The March 2003 blizzard left 31.8 inches at Stapleton, 19 inches at DIA, almost 4 feet in Golden, and 7 feet in Evergreen!

Many of the places I pointed out last month are still good bets for waterfowl in December.

The Platte River, Barr Lake, Cherry Creek and Chatfield State Parks won't be frozen over in December. Pueblo Reservoir at Pueblo Lake State Park doesn't freeze over and is good all winter.

If you want to see loons, with a good possibility of seeing 4 of the 5 North American species (though all 5 have been seen in Colorado), Marston Reservoir in Denver County, Lake Pueblo, Standley Lake in Jefferson County, Boulder and Baseline Reservoirs in Boulder County as well as Cherry Creek and Chatfield Reservoirs are good places to look.

Gulls (yes I know that is a dirty word for some birders) become more abundant with a greater variety as December marches along. Cherry Creek State Park has had Glaucous-winged Gull more than once and on one occasion, I had eight species of gulls just at the marina.

Lake Loveland, the Larimer County landfill, and Horseshoe Lake in Larimer County can have a great variety of gulls as can the reservoir that lies between I-76 and the Platte River just north of 74th Avenue in Adams County.



Look for Long-eared Owls perched near tree trunks in thickets in winter.
Lee Farrell

More than one Glaucous Gull was there on New Year's Day of 2009. There are times you can get 10 species of gulls just at the Lake Pueblo south marina.

Gyr Falcon is a rarity that may show up in winter in Colorado. The area around the Rawhide power plant, north of Ft. Collins hosted one

Continued on page 9



Kumlien's Iceland Gull (2nd basic) sometimes can be seen on reservoirs in Colorado in winter. *Kay Niyo*



White-throated Sparrow is uncommonly seen at Red Rocks Trading Post in winter. *Lee Farrell*



Left, Golden-crowned Sparrow arrived at Red Rocks Trading Post in late October 2013. *Mark Chavez*



Right, Bohemian Waxwing arrives in winter from farther north and is attracted to tree fruits. *Ira Sanders*

though it was more than 10 years ago.

But one could be found anywhere on the eastern plains if there is a southward irruption of this impressive falcon, the largest in the world.

Last winter, 2012–2013, there was a gyr seen up and down the Front Range from Boulder County to El Paso County.

You also can't rule out the mountains as one was seen at Walden Reservoir in Jackson County from November 5 to December 24, 2006.

Snow Bunting is another rarity that may be found on the eastern plains or in the mountains, and at the moment is my personal jinx bird.

They like the edge of lakes and reservoirs as evidenced by sightings at Jackson Lake State Park in Morgan County, Prewitt State Wildlife Area in Washington and Logan Counties, Pueblo Lake near the dam. And there was one last year at Antero Reservoir in Park County.

When you encounter flocks of Horned Larks on the prairies, scan for birds with large white wing patches and if you see them, you have your Snow Bunting.

Long-eared Owls are another visitor that is easier to find starting in December.

The Russian olives at Jackson Lake State Park annually host these owls and they have also been seen at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal the last two winters. Occasionally they are found below the dam at John Martin Reservoir.

If you are feeling very hardy, Guanella Pass above Georgetown is a spot to look for White-tailed Ptarmigan in their snow-white winter plumage.

Look under willows and look for sign of them in the droppings and tracks they leave. Ptarmigan can actually gain weight over the winter by feeding on willow buds.

Rufous-crowned Sparrows winter at the end of Tunnel Drive west of Cañon City.

If you go to Cañon City, don't fail to check the pines in the local parks and around the Abbey at the east side of town for all three species of sapsucker.

And while I'm on the subject of sapsuckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are annual visitors to City Park in Pueblo. Look in the big pines at the east end of the park. Look carefully, as the sapsuckers frequently sit motionless on the trunk of the tree.

For the past several years a Golden-crowned Sparrow has been found at Red Rocks Visitor Center/Trading

Post as have Harris's Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow.

Bohemian Waxwings can be seen in incredible flocks during invasion years. Chatfield State Park has had hundreds in the campgrounds.

You need to look anywhere there are fruit or crab apples on trees like in and around Greenlee Preserve in Boulder County.

Make sure you check all waxwings for the cinnamon undertail coverts of the larger (than Cedar) Bohemian Waxwing.

The annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) are conducted during the last two weeks of December and into January. Count leaders are always looking for more help in covering their areas and novices are as welcome as experts at all counts.

You can find listings of Colorado CBCs on COBirds and the National Audubon website.

I thank Bill Schmoker, Bill Kaempfer, and Karl Stecher for their contributions to this month's column.

If you have suggestions for any months yet to come for anywhere in the state, please feel free to email them to me at <zroadrunner14@gmail.com>. See <<http://colorado-countybirding.com/>> and click on "Find a Site" for birding locations.

Travel and Birding

Mary Cay Burger

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season is December 14 through January 5 each year.

According to the National Audubon Society, prior to the turn of the Twentieth Century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas “Side Hunt.”

They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations.

Beginning on Christmas Day,

1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a “Christmas Bird Census”—that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count.

Thanks to the inspiration of Frank M. Chapman and the enthusiasm of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day.

The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in

or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied about 90 species on all the counts combined.

There are now more than 2000 CBC circles. Just about anywhere you are traveling this holiday season you can join one.

Most are on the weekend, but not all. Check out the possibilities that will be listed soon at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

And note the opportunities in this issue for the Denver CBC and in the January issue for the Denver Urban CBC and other local CBCs.

ENGAGING LATINOS IN BIRDING, *continued from page 1*

International Migratory Bird Day events in the U.S., for example, attract as few as 1% to 15% Latinos, even in places such as Barr Lake State Park in Brighton, where the Latino population is almost 30%.

These family-friendly, free events would seem ideal for anyone, regardless of ethnicity.

Environment for the Americas (EFTA), a non-profit, Boulder-based organization whose keystone program is International Migratory Bird Day, has been studying the reasons why Latinos are absent from one of America’s fastest growing hobbies.

Working at six natural areas across the United States, including the majestic Muir Woods National Monument and Colorado’s own Great Sand Dunes and Barr Lake State Park, EFTA conducted face-to-face interviews with over 1000 Latino adults to learn more about their per-



Susan Bonfield

ceptions, attitudes, and willingness to participate in public, nature-based programs.

The responses from these surveys informed the many ways in which they adapted bird festivals, bird walks, and bird education programs to attract more diverse audiences.

For groups, such as DFO, the EFTA results are particularly rel-

evant. Denver’s Latino population is almost 32%, and the city’s most common ancestry group is Mexican.

The Latino population is expected to grow more rapidly than any other racial/ethnic group in the city until 2040. Reaching the next generation of birders must consider this population shift.

What can an organization do to diversify its membership and bring the wonder of birds and nature to people who may look different from the stereotypical birder?

EFTA worked for years to develop some basic tools that any group can adopt to attract new participants. At some sites, they have doubled and even tripled Latino attendance!

The meeting is in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter through the west door by 7:30 p.m. We must lock the door a little after that time.

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2014)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2014)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Lynn Willcockson (2014)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2013

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	303-287-1644
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
May	Jackie King	303-287-1644
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
August	Jackie King	303-287-1644
September	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	303-287-1644
December	Candice Johnson	303-329-8131

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Grants

Chris Blakeslee chrisabla@aol.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Webmaster

Richard Holmes Anderson rholmesanderson@earthlink.net

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list www.cfbirds.org

Colorado Rare Bird Alert

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hlif, Dick Schottler 303-650-8750

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check www.dfobirders.org, Colorado Rare Bird Alert (303-659-8750), or COBirds.

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new members: Catherine Labio, Boulder; Jake Flint and Jan Lorbeer, Aurora; Bruce and Charlene Warneke, Littleton; Julia Auckland, Denver

Thank you for your donation to the DFO Grants Fund: Georgia Hart, Bob Righter, Mary Geder, Fran and Carol Haas, Ted and Nancy Pinkert

Upcoming Speakers

Susan Bonfield Nov. 25

“Engage Latinos Home
and Abroad in Birding”

See details on page 1

Meredith McBurney Jan. 27

“The Passion and the Payoff:
Why We Band Birds and What
We Are Learning”

Diana Tomback Feb. 24

“Corvid Feed Dispersal”

Ted Floyd March 24

“Secrets of Boulder Revealed
At Last”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 20
☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 35
☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21)	\$ 5
☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

☐ **Do not publish in roster.**

Email (legible) _____

☐ **Do not publish in roster. (Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)**

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

Benefits of 'Know the Crow'

Ducks at a Distance

60th CBC Details

Featured This Month

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting